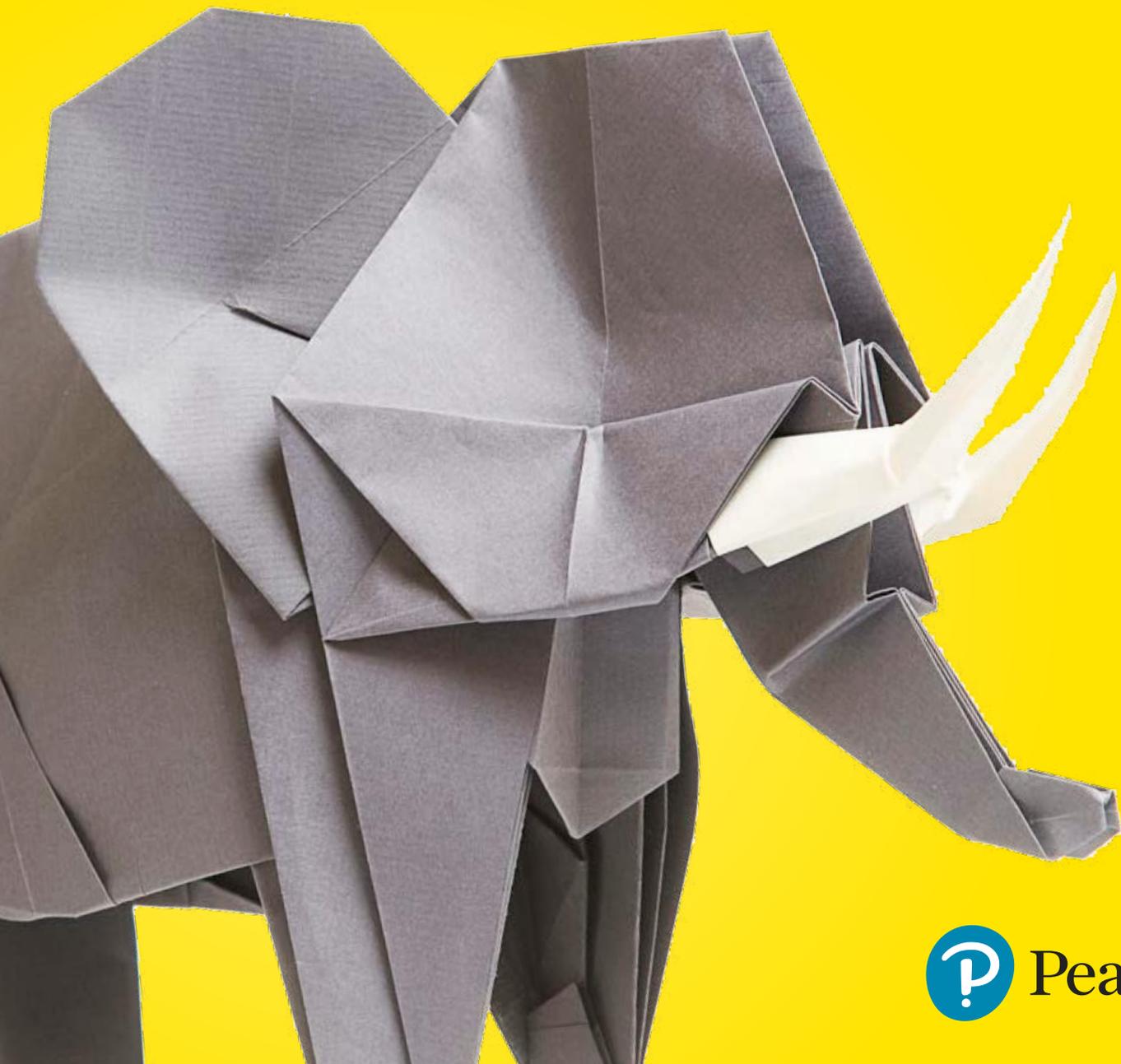


# Edexcel GCSE (9–1) **Psychology**

Exploring human behaviour

Discover our new qualification for 2017



# Edexcel GCSE (9–1) Psychology

This guide gives you an overview of the specification and assessments for our new **Edexcel GCSE (9–1) Psychology qualification** for first teaching from September 2017. We'll outline how our specification will inspire your students and address changes to the qualification. We'll also cover the high-quality support and resources you can expect from us as one of the key providers in psychology qualifications.

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## What's happening and when?

	Autumn 2016	Spring 2017	Summer 2017	Autumn 2017	Summer 2019
What's happening	Accredited specification available	Published resources available*	Published resources available*	Start teaching new GCSE	First assessments take place
What you can do	Attend a free Launch event Find out about published resources*	Attend a free Getting Ready to Teach event	Attend a free Getting Ready to Teach event		

NB. All information is correct at the time of printing but is subject to change. \*You do not have to buy resources to teach the specification.

# Exploring human behaviour

We've used this curriculum change as an opportunity to redesign our qualification to engage students as they explore human behaviour, helping them to develop an understanding of themselves and others.

Through the study of a wide range of engaging and contemporary topics, students will gain knowledge and understanding of key features in the following core areas of psychology.

- ⚙ **Biological** – an understanding of biological concepts in psychology, including neuroscience and genetics as contributors to behaviour.
- ⚙ **Cognitive** – an understanding of thought, information and mental processing as contributors to behaviour.
- ⚙ **Social** – an understanding of the social area of psychology, the impact of social and environmental factors on behaviour and the influence of groups.
- ⚙ **Developmental** – an understanding of how individuals change throughout their lives, with a particular focus on childhood and how both nature and nurture can affect individuals.
- ⚙ **Individual differences** – an understanding of the complex nature of human behaviour and experiences and why and how people are different.

## Working with you

We've worked with the teaching community, higher education and subject associations to develop our new qualification. Our new specification includes updated subject content as defined by the DfE, and as a result you will see some new topics in our specification. There is also now more focus on the assessment of research methods and mathematics in psychology.

## Next steps ...

Once you've read through this guide, turn to the back cover for details of how to:

1. Sign up for updates to receive information and support materials, and book on a free **Getting Ready to Teach event**.
2. Find out more about our brand new published resources and order a **FREE Evaluation Pack**.

# Qualifications at a glance

- Each paper has a mixture of multiple choice, short answer and longer answer questions.
- Ramped questions increasingly challenge students as they move through the paper and gain confidence.
- A taxonomy of command words has been carefully defined and will be used in the assessments.

Component	Overview	Assessment
<b>Paper 1</b> 55%	All topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How did you develop?</li> <li>How does your memory work?</li> <li>How would psychological problems affect you?</li> <li>How does your brain affect you?</li> <li>How do others affect you?</li> </ul>	Written examination.  1hr 45mins  98 marks
<b>Paper 2</b> 45%	Two topics from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Why do people become criminals?</li> <li>What makes you who you are?</li> <li>How do you interpret the world around you?</li> <li>Why do you need to sleep and dream?</li> <li>How do you communicate with others?</li> </ul> And: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How do you carry out psychological research? (Research methods and maths skills.)</li> </ul>	Written examination.  1hr 20mins  79 marks

## Assessment Objectives

<b>A01</b> 35%	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of psychological ideas, processes and procedures.
<b>A02</b> 35%	Apply knowledge and understanding of psychological ideas, processes and procedures.
<b>A03</b> 30%	Analyse and evaluate psychological information, ideas, processes and procedures to make judgements and draw conclusions.

# A wide range of optional topics

Our new specification contains a mixture of compulsory topics and optional topics. We are the **only exam board offering the full range of five optional topics** from which you can select two.

We think this is important to make sure you can meet the specific needs and interests of your students as they develop their understanding of human behaviour.

### The compulsory topics are:

- Development
- Memory
- Psychological problems
- The brain and neuropsychology
- Social influence.

### The optional topics are:

- Criminal psychology
- The Self
- Perception
- Sleep and dreaming
- Language, thought and communication.

Full details about the subject content in the compulsory and optional topics are in our specification, pages 8-20 or at: [quals.pearson.com/gcsepsychology2017](https://quals.pearson.com/gcsepsychology2017)

## Engaging and contemporary selection of studies

We've carefully selected contemporary and engaging studies relevant to today's student, with some of the practical experiments suited to a classroom setting.

### Studies from our specification include:

- Bartlett (1932) War of the Ghosts
- Piliavin et al. (1969) Good Samaritanism: An Underground Phenomenon?
- Charlton et al. (2000) Children's Playground Behaviour Across Five Years of Broadcast Television: A Naturalistic Study in a Remote Community
- Yuki et al. (2007) Are the windows to the soul the same in the East and West? Cultural differences in using the eyes and mouth as cues to recognize emotions in Japan and the United States



## Structured around key questions

We've listened to your feedback and will retain the structure around the **key questions** approach from our popular legacy specification to enable a smooth transition to the new course.

- Topics will be structured around key questions, providing an engaging hook for teachers and students.

### Key Questions from our specification include:

- How does your memory work?
- How does your brain affect you?
- How do others affect you?

For a complete list of studies and key questions please see our **Edexcel GCSE (9–1) Psychology** specification at: [quals.pearson.com/gcsepsychology2017](https://quals.pearson.com/gcsepsychology2017)

## Differentiation from A level

- We've considered the progression from GCSE to A level and where topics overlap, different studies and/or theories are covered to ensure students stay engaged and motivated as they progress to AS and A level.

To find out more about our **Edexcel AS and A level Psychology qualifications** and support please visit: [quals.pearson.com/alevelpsychology2015](https://quals.pearson.com/alevelpsychology2015)

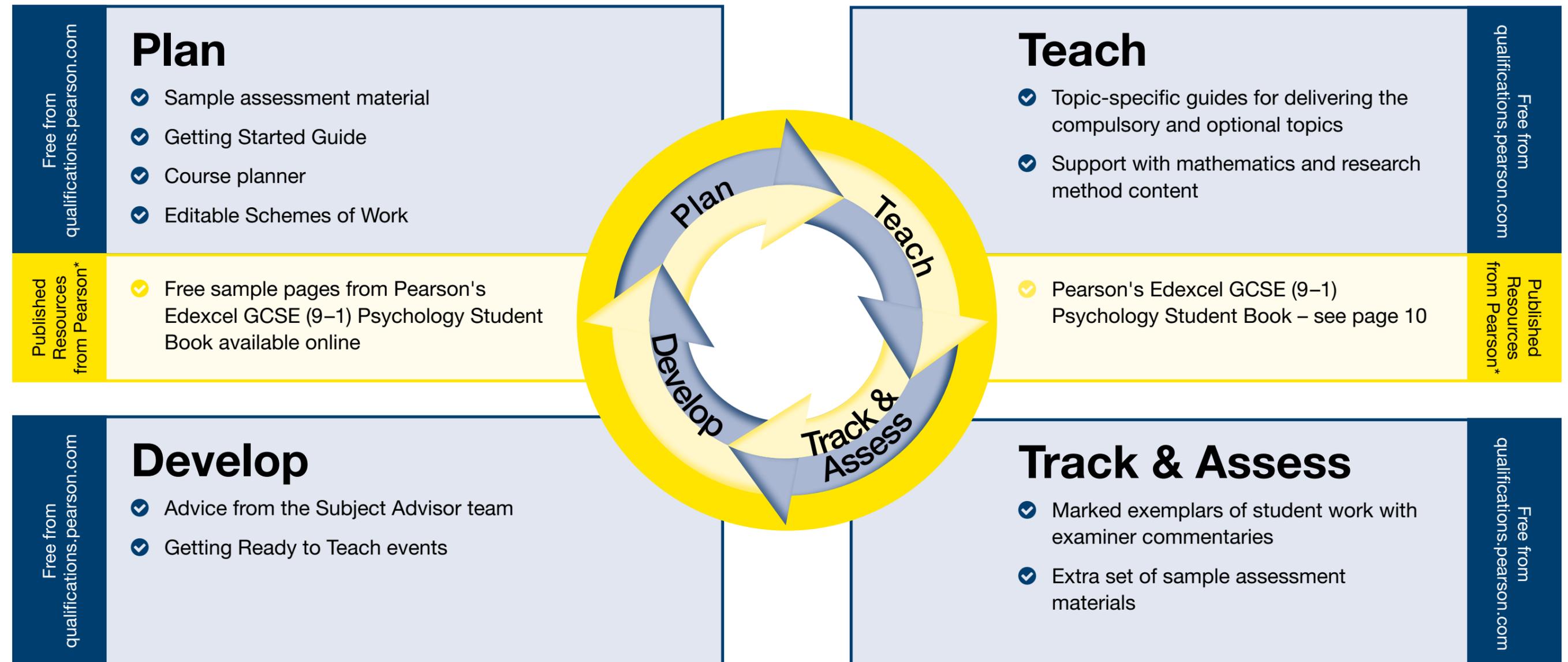


## Supporting you every step of the way

We've put together a full package of support to help you **plan** and **teach** our new qualification, **track and assess** students' progress, and **develop** your own professional knowledge and skills.

## Support with new content

To help you plan for 2017 with confidence, we'll provide lots of free support around the new maths and scientific content and research methods, helping you to understand the extent and level of teaching required.



\*Pearson's paid-for resources, as well as other endorsed resources, are not a prerequisite for the delivery of our Edexcel specification.

# Brand new resources from Pearson for 2017

Our new Student Book\* has been developed specifically for **Edexcel GCSE (9–1) Psychology**. Based on the same ‘key question’ approach, it will help teachers and students to feel confident with the new breadth of content and skills required.

- Providing contemporary and engaging examples, our new Student Book explores the everyday application of key psychology studies or theories in a real-world context that will stimulate and inspire students.
- Helping students to build practical skills and apply their learning to real-life examples, our Student Book features relevant and accessible activities and methods.
- Supporting teaching of the new mathematical skills and research methodologies, our Student Book is carefully structured to develop skills and understanding through accessible contextualised examples with plenty of hints, tips and advice.
- Our new Student Book is focussed on preparing students for the new-style assessments with plenty of practice and guidance on the specific skills and knowledge required for the Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9–1) Psychology specification.
- Available May 2017 in print and digital ActiveBook or Kindle edition, enabling independent student learning and providing a choice of formats for accessing the Student Book content.



Download a free sample chapter and reserve your **FREE Evaluation Pack** at: [www.pearsonschools.co.uk/gcsepsychology2017ep](http://www.pearsonschools.co.uk/gcsepsychology2017ep)

\* Our resources for Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9–1) Psychology have been submitted for Edexcel endorsement. You do not need to purchase published resources to deliver our qualifications.

## Key changes: GCSE (9–1) Psychology

These changes will apply to all awarding organisations' specifications.

### Assessment changes:

- Research methods content must make up 20% of the qualification.
- Maths skills make up 10% of the qualification (50% of the research method content).
- The course will still be assessed through 100% exam.

### Content changes:

- There are now 5 compulsory topics that all students must learn: Memory, Development, Psychological Problems, Social Influence and The Brain and Neuropsychology.
- Centres will have a choice of 2 optional topics from a list of 5. Awarding organisations can decide which of these options they offer, **our Edexcel specification offers all 5 topics**. All students will study research methods as part of their course.

### Support whenever you need it

Our Psychology Subject Advisor **Julius Edwards**, is on hand to help you with any questions.

You can also sign up to receive updates about training events, news and government announcements, deadlines and much more.

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[quals.pearson.com/gcsepsychology2017](http://quals.pearson.com/gcsepsychology2017)



**Julius Edwards**  
Psychology Subject Advisor

# Next steps...

## Sign up for updates

### **Edexcel GCSE (9–1) Psychology**

If you're interested in teaching our qualifications, let us know so you receive important specification updates and support.

**Sign up for updates at:**

**[quals.pearson.com/gcsepsychology2017](https://quals.pearson.com/gcsepsychology2017)**

### **Book onto a free Getting Ready to Teach event**

Book your space on a free online or face-to-face Getting Ready to Teach event now to find out more about the qualification:

**[quals.pearson.com/gcsepsychologyGRTT](https://quals.pearson.com/gcsepsychologyGRTT)**

## Reserve your FREE Evaluation Pack

Find out more about our new published resources and reserve your FREE Evaluation Pack at:

**[www.pearsonschools.co.uk/gcsepsychology2017ep](https://www.pearsonschools.co.uk/gcsepsychology2017ep)**

