

**Your guide to Pearson Edexcel
International Advanced Level (IAL)
Psychology**

First teaching
September 2015



Welcome

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level (IAL) qualifications have been designed with the global learner in mind. They differ from A levels in that they have a flexible, modular structure, but maintain the rigorous standards of all Pearson Edexcel qualifications and are comparable to the UK A level, as confirmed by NARIC*.

Developed in consultation with the international school community, including a large number of teachers and university lecturers, these globally recognised qualifications open doors to universities worldwide, giving students the necessary skills to support progression to higher and further study.

Available in 21 popular subjects and designed to be engaging for international learners, they offer progression from International GCSEs to equip students with the knowledge and skills they need for a successful future. In 2018 we launched 8 updated subjects – Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Business, Economics, Mathematics, Further Mathematics and Pure Mathematics and also a brand new Information Technology qualification, which our schools started teaching in September 2018.

IAL qualifications are not available in the UK, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man or in British Armed Forces schools overseas.

For further information, updates and support, visit qualifications.pearson.com/IAL

“
It’s been my dream to attend a world-renowned university. Pearson Edexcel IALs have given me a solid academic foundation for further studies.”

Fei Xue, studying Computer Science,
University College London

**UK NARIC is the designated United Kingdom National Agency for the recognition and comparison of international qualifications and skills. It performs this official function on behalf of the UK Government.*

Illustration by Lauren Rolwing



Why choose Pearson Edexcel IALs?



100% externally assessed

Learners can resit individual unit examinations.



Flexible and modular structure

The flexible modular approach takes a synoptic approach to assessment, which means learners are examined on their learning from each unit and are also able to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding across the whole subject.

Unlike a linear structure, where assessment is taken at the end of a two year course, the results from each module provide formal feedback throughout the course. This means learners can quickly grasp the standard required to reach the level they are aiming for. This understanding motivates students to improve, and builds a sense of ownership through bite-size, short-term goals.



Multiple examination opportunities

Examinations are available for many subjects in January, June and October, with all subjects offering at least two assessment opportunities as standard*. As exams are spread throughout the course, there are less high stakes assessments, enabling learners to focus their revision appropriately. Learners can resit individual unit examinations.



Accessible examination papers

At Pearson Edexcel, we develop our examination papers over a two-year period. The papers go through a rigorous world class assessment design process, which ensures that the content is relevant for international learners, and there is a clear and consistent relationship between command words, marks and skills. With logical progression of difficulty throughout and consistency in template and design, our question papers are clear and provide suitable challenge and support for students of all ability ranges.



IAS results contribute to IAL grade

International AS qualifications can be taken separately as a stand alone qualification, or used as a stage on the way to completing an International Advanced Level qualification. This provides international schools and learners with greater choice and flexibility to meet their needs and aspirations.



Recognised by universities worldwide

Fully comparable to UK reformed GCE A levels, as confirmed by NARIC, Pearson Edexcel IALs provide learners with access to the world's top universities and prestigious employment opportunities. They are recognised by leading universities across the world, including Oxford, Cambridge, Columbia, Yale, MIT, Caltech, Hong Kong / China University of Science and Technology and the National University of Singapore.



Internationally relevant content

Pearson Edexcel IAL qualifications and accompanying published resources contain international content where possible, such as topic themes, examples, case studies and photos, making content more relevant and engaging for all learners. Language is also reviewed by a specialist to ensure materials are written with EAL learners in mind, in a clear and accessible style.

**With the exception of IAL Information Technology which offers June examination only.*

Pearson Edexcel IAL in Psychology



100% externally assessed



Exams in January, June and October

Containing up to date and engaging content, the Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in Psychology is relevant to an international audience and uses a broad base of both famous, traditional and contemporary studies. There is also a 10% mathematical content and students are allowed to use a calculator in examinations.

Students will:

- develop research methods and carry out practical work by using various techniques in appropriate topics
- learn to apply psychological theory to everyday behaviour and to appreciate the variety of people's characteristics
- learn how to analyse aspects of their own behaviour in different circumstances.

The aims and objectives of this qualification are to enable students to:

- develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of psychology and how they relate to each other
- develop and demonstrate a deep appreciation of the skills in using scientific methods, knowledge and understanding of scientific methods
- develop competence and confidence in using a variety of practical, mathematical and problem-solving skills
- develop their interest in and enthusiasm for psychology, including developing an interest in further international study and careers associated with psychology
- appreciate how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how psychology contributes to the success of the economy and society.

For further information and to download the specification, visit qualifications.pearson.com/ialpsychology



IAS in Psychology: Content & Assessment Overviews

The Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Subsidiary in Psychology and the Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in Psychology are modular qualifications. The Advanced Subsidiary can be claimed on completion of the two International Advanced Subsidiary (IAS) units.

| Unit 1 - Social and cognitive psychology | | |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| Unit code: WPS01/01 | 40% of the total IAS | 20% of the total IAL |
| Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes | | Availability: January, June & October |
| Content - Students will study: | Assessment - Students answer all questions from three sections. | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic A: Social psychology • Topic B: Cognitive psychology | <p>Section A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social psychology, totals 26 marks and comprises short-answer questions and one eight-mark extended open-response question. <p>Section B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cognitive psychology, totals 26 marks and comprises short-answer questions and one eight-mark extended open-response question. <p>Section C</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprises one 12-mark extended open-response question on either social or cognitive psychology. | |
| Unit 2 - Biological psychology, learning theories and development | | |
| Unit code: WPS02/01 | 60% of the total IAS | 30% of the total IAL |
| Written examination: 2 hours | | Availability: January, June & October |
| Content - Students will study: | Assessment - Students answer all questions from three sections. | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic C: Biological psychology • Topic D: Learning theories and development | <p>Section A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological psychology, totals 34 marks and comprises short-answer questions and one eight-mark extended open-response question. <p>Section B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning theories and development, totals 34 marks and comprises short-answer questions and one eight-mark extended open-response question. <p>Section C</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprises one 12-mark and one 16-mark extended open-response question. The 12-mark question covers either biological psychology or learning theories and development and the 16-mark question covers both biological psychology, and learning theories and development. | |

IA2 in Psychology: Content & Assessment Overviews

The International Advanced Level can be claimed on completion of all four units (IAS and IA2 units).

| Unit 3 - Applications of psychology | |
|--|--|
| Unit code: WPS03/01 | 20% of the total IAL |
| Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes | Availability: January, June & October |
| Content - Students will study: | Assessment - Students must answer all questions from Section A and all questions from a choice of two topic areas in Section B. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topic E: Developmental psychology <p>Optional topics (students must study one of the following topics):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topic F: Criminological psychology Topic G: Health psychology | <p>Section A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developmental psychology, totals 32 marks and comprises short-answer questions and two eight-mark extended open-response question. One eight-mark question focuses on developmental psychology. One eight-mark synoptic question is based on developmental psychology and issues from Units 1 and 2. <p>Section B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presents students with a choice of one from either criminological or health psychology. Each section totals 32 marks and comprises short-answer questions and two eight-mark extended open-response questions. |

| Unit 4: Clinical psychology and psychological skills | |
|---|---|
| Unit code: WPS04/01 | 30% of the total IAL |
| Written examination: 2 hours | Availability: January, June & October |
| Content - Students will study: | Assessment - Students must answer all questions from five sections. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topic H: Clinical psychology Topic I: Psychological skills | <p>Section A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clinical psychology, totals 32 marks and comprises short-answer questions <p>Section B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clinical psychology, comprises one 16-mark extended open-response question. <p>Section C</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psychological skills, totals 20 marks and comprises short-answer questions drawing on research methods from other topic areas (except Topics F and G). <p>Section D</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psychological skills, comprises one eight-mark extended open-response question based on the analysis of a key question from other topic areas (except Topics F and G). <p>Section E</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psychological skills, comprises one 20-mark synoptic question based on issues and debates from other topic areas (except Topics F and G). |

Developing transferable skills valued by universities and employers

In recent years, universities and employers have highlighted the need for students and graduates to develop a range of transferable skills, often referred to as 'soft skills', to enable them to better meet the demands of undergraduate study and the world of work.

In fact, universities and employers consider transferable skills to be the largest skills gap overall.



1 in 6

employers have difficulty finding candidates with the skills they require¹



54%

of companies say that skills shortages impact their ability to serve their customers²



1 in 3

skills in a job posting is a "soft skill"¹



87%

of university professors do not think students have the research skills needed for degree-level study³

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Levels (IALs) equip students with these embedded transferable skills sought after by universities and employers. They develop core competencies, such as problem-solving, critical thinking and verbal reasoning. Transferable skills are signposted in our IAL qualifications and published teaching and learning resource so students know the skills they are developing throughout their studies.

Prepare your learners for more than just a grade

We've provided **skills mapping and transferable skills subject definitions** documents for your subject area, so you can easily identify what skills can be developed in your day to day teaching. Find out more online by visiting your subject page and searching under the *Teaching and Learning materials* tab [qualifications.pearson.com/IAL](https://www.pearson.com/IAL)

¹ *Employability - Personal & Social Capability Framework report from Pearson, 2016.*

² *Employability report from PSB for Pearson, 2016.*

³ *Bridging the Gap: Understanding the Differing Research Expectations of First-Year Students and Professors, Meg Raven, Mount Saint Vincent University, 2016.*

Supporting you at every stage

We provide an unparalleled level of support services, tools, resources and training alongside qualifications, making teachers and students lives easier at every stage.

Your free subject support

Subject Advisors

Providing fast, reliable, expert help on a specific subject area of your choice. We aim to answer all emailed questions within 48 hours and resolve 90% of issues phoned in on the first call.

Contact support.pearson.com/uk/s/qualification-contactus

Pearson International Schools Community

Connect with other educators around the world, share ideas and resources and stay up to date with the latest subject developments by joining our international schools community at community.pearsoninternationalschools.com

At a glance: support for you at every stage

| FREE resources and support | Planning and teaching | Exam preparation and assessment | Results support |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Getting started guide | ✓ | | |
| Component guides for each unit | ✓ | | |
| Summary of studies for each unit | ✓ | | |
| Specification and resource mapping documents | ✓ | | |
| Training (face-to-face, online & downloadable content) | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Subject advisor support | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Ask the expert | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Community forums | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Sample assessment materials | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Examiner reports | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Exemplar marked responses | | ✓ | |
| Past papers | | ✓ | |
| Mark schemes | | ✓ | |
| ResultsPlus mock exam analysis | | ✓ | |
| ResultsPlus | | ✓ | ✓ |
| FREE Access to Scripts service (ATS) | | | ✓ |
| Additional paid for resources | | | |
| Online Teacher Resource Pack | ✓ | ✓ | |

Offering more advanced support services and tools

Our technology capability also allows us to provide the following unique services and tools to teachers and students:



ResultsPlus provides detailed information on exam performance and a platform to view and compare student results – as individuals or as groups – across the world. It helps with planning improvements in teaching and learning. ResultsPlus Direct is a free online service that gives students a detailed breakdown and comparison of their performance in Pearson Edexcel exams, globally, to help them identify areas of improvement.



examWizard is our free exam preparation tool containing a bank of past Pearson Edexcel exam questions, mark schemes and examiners' reports for a range of subjects. It saves you time by enabling you to create your own mock exams, topic tests, homework or revision activities in minutes and links directly to associated examiner reports and mark schemes!



FREE Access to Scripts Service (ATS) is an online service which allows access to view electronically marked exam papers, free of charge, providing enhanced transparency and support for teachers to evaluate a student's performance on particular questions in relation to what they have been taught.



Awarding reliability. We use ePEN, our unique, image-based marking system ensuring real time monitoring, quality control and reporting to ensure the highest quality marking and provision of data for tools such as ResultsPlus. Pearson Edexcel exam marking processes have been proven to produce the most reliable results. This demonstrates that our qualifications maintain the highest standards and can be relied upon to deliver to expectation.

“Because of ResultsPlus, students can learn about their mistakes and rectify.”

Kanagambigai, Chief Counsellor, Chemistry Lecturer, A levels Department, HELP Academy, Malaysia commenting on the ResultsPlus mocks service.

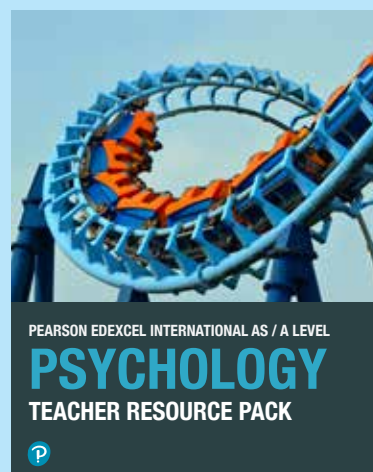
Published resources

The new online published teacher resources are designed to support you teach Psychology in an international context and are written to cover all aspects of the latest specification, so you can be confident that you are providing your students with the best chance of succeeding.

Our **Online Psychology Teacher Resource Pack** supports the Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level (IAL) in Psychology, for first teaching from September 2015*.

This curriculum-matched, up-to-date teacher resource is designed to save you time, enabling you to deliver a high-quality experience to your students, ensuring the best possible learner outcomes.

- Available through a two-year subscription.
- Practice exam papers.
- Mark schemes for the mock papers.
- Summative (practice) assessments.
- Exam practice PowerPoints.
- Mapping document.
- Glossary of key terminology.



| Title | ISBN |
|---|---------------|
| Pearson Edexcel International AS/A Level Psychology Teacher Resource Pack | 9781292277646 |

*You do not have to purchase our published resources, or endorsed resources from any other publisher, to deliver our qualifications.

Exam-style questions for each unit allow students to prepare for exam success.

INTERNATIONAL A LEVEL
Psychology
 Short-answer questions

Pearson | Edexcel

Paper 3

- Describe Ainsworth's strange situation procedure. (4)

- Complete the missing information in Table 1, Erikson's stages of psychosocial development. (3)

Table 1. Erikson's stages of psychosocial development

| Stage | Psychosocial crisis | Basic virtue | Age |
|-------|----------------------------|--------------|-------|
| 1 | Trust vs mistrust | Hope | 0–1½ |
| 2 | Autonomy vs shame | Will | 1½–3 |
| 3 | | | |
| 4 | Industry vs inferiority | Competency | 5–12 |
| 5 | | | |
| 6 | Intimacy vs isolation | Love | 18–40 |
| 7 | Generativity vs stagnation | Care | 40–65 |
| 8 | | | |

- Briefly assess Erikson's stages of psychosocial development. (4)

- Discuss Vygotsky's theory of cognitive and language development referring to the zone of proximal development.

© Pearson Education Ltd 2019. Copying permitted for purchasing institution only. This material is not copyright free. 1

Sample from Pearson Edexcel International AS/A Level Psychology Teacher Resource Pack

Model student answers are provided with analysis in order for students to improve exam technique and understand how to answer questions successfully.

INTERNATIONAL A LEVEL
Psychology
 Model Exam Answers

Pearson | Edexcel

Student Response 2

Research into and explanations of obedience tend to portray the idea that we are largely unquestioningly obedient to authority figures. Milgram's classic research suggests that, when given an order by an authority figure, 65% of us would be likely to display obedience. However, this fails to account for the 35% of participants who did resist obedience to a malevolent authority figure.

Locus of control (Rotter) is a theory that describes how some individuals have an individual belief system that influences whether they are likely to obey depending on whether they have a strong internal or external locus of control. Individuals with an external locus of control believe that their behaviour is determined by external forces, so are more likely to follow orders given by authority figures. Individuals with an internal locus of control believe that their behaviour is self determined, so are more likely to resist authority, instead choosing their own course of action.

© Pearson Education Ltd 2019. Copying permitted for purchasing institution only. This material is not copyright free. 1

Sample from Pearson Edexcel International AS/A Level Psychology Teacher Resource Pack

For further information on all of our print and digital resources for Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level qualifications, visit www.pearsonglobalschools.com/IAL



I like the modular nature of IAL, the fact that I can choose whichever core units I want to do, whichever applied units I want to do. It's very comprehensive. It opens up many doors to many international universities.

Wang, Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level student from Sri Lanka, studying Chemistry, Biology, Physics, and Mathematics.

About Pearson Edexcel

At the core of everything we do at Pearson is the desire to make a measurable impact on improving people's lives through learning. From primary school to secondary school, through to professional certification; our qualifications help educate millions of people worldwide.

Foundations for success

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level (IAL) is part of the iProgress family for ages 5 to 19, which also includes iPrimary, iLowerSecondary and International GCSE (IG). We offer more than just a qualification, with professional development training that keeps teachers up-to-date with the latest educational practices, support materials that make planning and teaching lessons easier, and student textbooks and online resources, so you'll have more time to focus on the development of your students' progress.

Progress to university

Developed by education specialists specifically for international learners, Pearson Edexcel IAL qualifications are recognised by leading universities across the world, including Oxford, Cambridge, Columbia, Yale, MIT, Caltech, Hong Kong / China University of Science and Technology and the National University of Singapore.



Find out more

To find out more about our Pearson Edexcel International A Level qualifications and to sign up to our monthly newsletter, visit our website, qualifications.pearson.com/IAL