

# Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level (IAL) in Psychology (1/2)

Similar structure to GCE 2008; content similar to GCE 2015;  
contemporary studies and research methods different to GCE 2015

Unit /Title	Comparison with GCE 2008	Comparison with GCE 2015
<p><b>1</b> IAS</p> <p>Social and cognitive psychology</p>	<p><b>Differences in content:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social psychology covers prejudice, IAL covers conformity.</li> <li>• Cognitive psychology covers memory and forgetting, IAL covers models of memory only.</li> <li>• Key issue included for each topic area, none at IAS level</li> <li>• Two studies from each topic areas (4 total) compared to three from each topic areas in IAL (6 in total)</li> <li>• Different methods</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessment:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shorter assessment time, fewer marks, objective test items compared to IAL</li> </ul>	<p><b>Differences in content:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social psychology covers prejudice and individual differences and developmental psychology, IAL covers conformity only</li> <li>• Cognitive psychology covers individual differences and developmental psychology</li> <li>• Key questions included for each topic area, none at IAS</li> <li>• Issues and debates section for each topic areas, none at IAS</li> <li>• Two studies from each topic areas (4 total) compared to three from each topic areas in IAL (6 in total)</li> <li>• Different methods</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessment:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advanced Subsidiary – more marks compared to IAL, 50% of total qualification compared to 40% IAS</li> <li>• Advanced Level – longer assessment time, more marks, covers biological and learning theories in same paper, 35% of total qualification compared to 20% of IAL</li> </ul>
<p><b>2</b> IAS</p> <p>Biological psychology, learning theories and development</p>	<p><b>Differences in content:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unit called 'Understanding the Individual'</li> <li>• Covers Psychodynamic approach, IAL covers biological and learning only</li> <li>• IAL Biological psychology covers focus on aggression and body rhythms</li> <li>• IAL Learning theories covers Freud's psychosexual stages of development</li> <li>• Key issue included for each topic area, none at IAS level</li> <li>• Two studies from each topic areas (4 total) compared to three from each topic areas in IAL (6 in total)</li> <li>• Different methods</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessment:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shorter assessment time, fewer marks, objective test items compared to IAL</li> </ul>	<p><b>Differences in content:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biological psychology covers role of evolution, natural selection and hormones in human behaviour, and individual differences and developmental psychology</li> <li>• Learning theories covers individual differences and developmental psychology</li> <li>• Key questions included for each topic area, none at IAS</li> <li>• Issues and debates section for each topic areas, none at IAS</li> <li>• Two studies from each topic areas (4 total) compared to three from each topic areas in IAL (6 in total)</li> <li>• Different methods</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessment:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advanced Subsidiary – fewer marks compared to IAL, 50% of total qualification compared to 60% IAS</li> <li>• Advanced Level – longer assessment time, more marks, covers biological and learning theories in same paper, 35% of total qualification compared to 30% of IAL</li> </ul>

# Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level (IAL) in Psychology (2/2)

Similar structure to GCE 2008; content similar to GCE 2015;  
contemporary studies and research methods different to GCE 2015

Unit /Title	Comparison with GCE 2008	Comparison with GCE 2015
<p><b>3</b> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">IA2</span></p> <p>Applications of psychology</p>	<p><b>Differences in content:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Four applications, compared to two in IAL (no child or sport)</li> <li>• Health psychology focusses on substance misuse, compared to stress in IAL</li> <li>• no compulsory section, IAL has section on developmental psychology</li> <li>• no practical inv for IAL</li> <li>• Two studies from each topic areas (4 total as two areas must be selected) compared to three from each topic areas in IAL (6 in total)</li> <li>• Different methods</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessment:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• fewer marks, four options of which two must be selected, compared to two options of which one must be selected in IAL</li> </ul>	<p><b>Differences in content:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Covers compulsory topics of clinical psychology</li> <li>• Child psychology optional, whereas for IAL this extend to developmental and is mandatory, covering areas such as cognitive, language and social development</li> <li>• Students must study one topic from three applications; health, child and criminological, compared to one from two in IAL</li> <li>• Criminological psychology focusses on additional areas such as biological explanations and treatment, Health psychology focusses on drugs, compared to stress in IAL</li> <li>• Criminological and health psychology covers individual differences and developmental psychology</li> <li>• Practical investigations and key questions included for each topic area, none at IAL</li> <li>• Issues and debates section for each topic areas, only issues for developmental topic area in IAL</li> <li>• Two studies from each topic areas (4 total) compared to three from each topic areas in IAL (6 in total)</li> <li>• Different methods</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessment:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advanced Level – fewer marks compared to IAL, 35% of total qualification compared to 20% of IAL</li> </ul>
<p><b>4</b> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">IA2</span></p> <p>Clinical psychology and psychological skills</p>	<p><b>Differences in content:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unit called 'How psychology works'</li> <li>• Clinical psychology covers more mental health disorders compared to IAL</li> <li>• Different research methods</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• fewer marks</li> </ul>	<p><b>Differences in content:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clinical psychology covers individual differences and developmental psychology</li> <li>• Clinical psychology covers more mental health disorders compared to IAL</li> <li>• Issues and debates section for clinical, not in IAL</li> <li>• Psychological skills: issues and debates, themes different compared to IAL</li> <li>• Different overall research methods</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessment:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advanced Level – fewer marks compared to IAL</li> </ul>