

# HIGHERS IN A NUTSHELL

The National Parent Forum of Scotland Summary of Higher Psychology

PSYCHOLOGY  
HEALTH &  
WELLBEING

CfE  
HIGHER

3  
UNITS

RESEARCH  
INDIVIDUAL BEHAVIOUR  
SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

+  
COURSE  
ASSESSMENT

ASSIGNMENT + QUESTION PAPER



## Skills

Learners will be able to:

- develop knowledge and understanding of psychological concepts, theories, approaches and terminology
- use thinking skills when analysing, evaluating and applying knowledge and understanding of psychology
- understand the role of research evidence in explaining human behaviour
- select, organise, interpret and evaluate information
- plan and carry out psychological research, using appropriate methods and according to ethical and scientific standards
- develop communication and numeracy skills used in psychology



## Opportunities for Learners

Learners will be able to:

- understand psychological approaches to analysing the human mind and behaviour
- investigate psychological knowledge and research
- analyse and evaluate concepts, theories and approaches
- draw on research evidence to explain human behaviour



## Assessment

- To gain Higher Psychology, learners must pass the three Units and the Course Assessment (Assignment and Question Paper for 100 marks)
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre and are quality assured by the SQA. Achievement of Units is recorded on the learner's qualifications certificate
- The SQA has provided examples of Unit assessments that teachers/lecturers can use as they are, or adapt to suit the needs of their learners
- The Course Assessment consists of an Assignment (40 marks) and a Question Paper (exam for 60 marks) which is in three sections (see below). Evidence from the Assignment and the Question Paper are marked externally by the SQA
- Higher Psychology is graded from A to D or as No Award.



**Question Paper** Three sections, one per Unit of the course (20 marks per section) 2 hours, 60 marks  
**Specimen Paper** [www.sqa.org.uk/files\\_ccc/PsychologySQPH.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/PsychologySQPH.pdf)  
**Assignment** Learners will undertake primary research on a brief provided by the SQA and will report findings. 40 marks



**Progression** Higher courses can stand alone or follow on from National 5 qualifications and may lead to Advanced Highers, the Scottish Baccalaureate and a range of qualifications within Further and Higher Education.



For course information, specimen question papers and past paper guidance visit:

Higher Psychology: [www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47902.html](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47902.html)

Curriculum for Excellence Key Terms and Features Factfile

[www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/CfEFactfileOverview\\_tcm4-665983.pdf](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/CfEFactfileOverview_tcm4-665983.pdf)

Further Information for Parents and Learners Information on assessment, skills, progression, revision resources and summaries of National Qualifications

[www.parentforumscotland.org](http://www.parentforumscotland.org)



the National Parent  
Forum of Scotland

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