



BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Psychology

Board and Specification: Edexcel, Pearson

Staff: Mrs. Lisa Stephens (l.stephens@cwlc.email)

Mrs. Diana Cross (d.cross2@cwlc.email)

Subject specific entry requirements:

- Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics
- Grade 5 in GCSE English Literature and/or Language
- Grade 5 in GCSE Science

What skills are required of students?

The ability to follow instructions in order to complete both written assignments and a practical research project

The ability to study independently

The ability to meet regular deadlines

The ability to analyse data and reach conclusions

The maturity to deal with both challenging and sensitive topics

Course Details

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behaviour, and as such it is central to our everyday lives. The Extended Certificate in Applied Psychology consists of a combination of continual assessment through written assignments, and external examinations. The course involves three mandatory units which explore the study of psychological approaches, health psychology and a practical research-based project. In psychological approaches, students will examine the cognitive, social, learning and biological methods associated with studying the human mind and behaviour. Health psychology looks at the motivation behind healthy and unhealthy behaviours, considers how stress links to illness, and why people become addicted to behaviours or substances. In the research-based unit, students will learn how to work to deadlines, manage their time, find information for themselves, and hone basic skills such as using an index correctly, and referencing. One optional unit will also be completed, from a choice of: criminal and forensic psychology, principles of children's psychological development, psychopathology and treatment, and applied sport psychology.

The course assumes that students will have not studied the subject before, however, they will need to be organised, have the ability to work independently, and meet regular deadlines.

Modules titles and codes:

Mandatory Units. The following units are compulsory and are studied by all students:

Unit 1

Psychological Approaches and Applications – Externally assessed (Written examination – 1hr 30mins. 72 marks. Extended open-response questions and scenario-based questions). In this unit, students will be introduced to some basic ideas from different approaches in psychology, including the cognitive approach and the biological approach. Students will also explore social psychology and its application to gender, aggression and consumer behaviour.

Unit 2

Conducting Psychological Research – Internally assessed.

In this unit, students will develop knowledge, understanding and skills related to the scientific process and research methodology, by conducting their own psychological research project.

Unit 3

Health Psychology – Externally assessed (Written examination – 2hr. 70 marks).

In this unit, students will explore psychological approaches, theories and studies related to lifestyle choices, unhealthy behaviours and behavioural change, linking them to their specific contexts.

Optional Units. Choice of one from:

Unit 4: Criminal and Forensic Psychology

Unit 5: Promoting Children's Psychological Development

Unit 6: Introduction to Psychopathology

Unit 7: Applied Sport Psychology

What kinds of work will you do in class and at home?

Keeping class notes

Challenging discussion

Working independently

Following instructions to design a research study

Revising key topics

Practising exam questions

Conducting a research project and presenting results

Writing a report

Answering extended answer questions

What other A-levels does your subject connect well with?

The BTEC in Applied Psychology links well to both humanities and science-based subjects, including A-levels in: Biology, English Literature, History, Religious Studies and Sociology and BTEC's in Health and Social Care, Sport and PE, Law and Applied Science.

What types of university course will be helped by this BTEC?

The qualification is recognised by universities as contributing to the admission requirements for a range of applied psychology courses including: Occupational Health, Social Work, Education, Child Psychology, Forensic and Criminal Psychology. Students should, however, always check the entry requirements for degree programmes at their chosen higher education provider.