

International Baccalaureate Psychology

@ Durham Sixth Form Centre

"Success is a state of mind. If you want success, start thinking of yourself as a success."
- Dr. Joyce Brothers

The course involves the study of brain and behaviour as if seen through three different lenses of a microscope. For example for the topic of Perception the Biological lens would examine the functioning of eye and brain in visual perception. The Cognitive lens would look at the different processing pathways possible in perceiving an object. Is visual perception always driven by the data available or does expectation also play a part? The Socio-cultural lens would consider the role of learning in perception and whether there may be cultural differences in perception. All topics consider the research methods by which psychological information has been gathered."

(Taken from the IB subject Guide for Psychology)

Overview:

The IB is a 2 year course, and examinations are taken at the end of the 2 years.

The course is split into 4 distinct sections:

Section 1: (SL and HL). Students develop an understanding of 3 core topic areas: the biological level of analysis, the cognitive level of analysis and the sociocultural level of analysis

Section 2: (SL and HL) . Students study certain topic areas in psychology: HL students study the Psychology of human relationships in year 12, and HL + SL students a second option in year 13

Section 3: (HL only) Qualitative research methodology - Qualitative research in psychology

Section 4: (HL and SL) Simple experimental study - Introduction to experimental research methodology

Assessment:

(SL) There are 2 external exams and 1 piece of internally assessed coursework

Paper 1: 2 hours (50%) **Paper 2:** 1 hour (25%)
Internal assessment: 25%

(HL) There are 3 external exams and 1 piece of internally assessed coursework

Paper 1: 2 hours: 35% **Paper 2:** 2 hours (25%) **Paper 3:** 1 hour: 20%
Internal assessment: 20%

SL students plan, undertake and report on a replication of a simple experimental study, using descriptive statistics to analyse results. HL students also plan, undertake and report a simple experimental study which may be a replication or a modification of a published study, applying inferential statistics to analyse results.

