

SOCIAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

PLC'S PSYCHOLOGY

A LEVEL

SPECIFICATION

SOCIAL INFLUENCE

Paper 1 Candidates should be able to: -	GREEN	AMBER	RED
3.1.1 Social Influence			
Types of conformity: internalisation, identification and compliance. Informational and normative social influence Asch (factors: Group size, unanimity and task difficulty)			
Zimbardo - Conformity to social roles			
Milgram – Obedience			
Situational explanations of obedience - Proximity, location and Uniform.			
Psychological explanations for obedience - Legitimate Authority and Agentic state			
Dispositional explanations for obedience - The Authoritarian personality			
Explanation of resistance to social influence - Social support and locus of control			
Minority influence, consistency, commitment and flexibility			
Social influence and social change			

SPECIFICATION COGNITIVE – MEMORY

Paper 1 Candidates should be able to: -	GREEN	AMBER	RED
3.1.4 Memory			
1. The multi-store model of memory: sensory register, short-term memory and long-term memory. Features of each store: coding, capacity and duration.			
2. Types of long-term memory: episodic, semantic, procedural.			
3. The working memory model: central executive, phonological loop, visuo-spatial sketchpad and episodic buffer. Features of the model: coding and capacity.			
4. Explanations for forgetting: proactive and retroactive interference and retrieval failure due to absence of cues.			
5. Factors affecting the accuracy of eyewitness testimony: misleading information, including leading questions and post-event discussion; anxiety.			
6. Improving the accuracy of eyewitness testimony, including the use of the cognitive interview.			

SPECIFICATION

ATTACHMENT

Paper 1 Candidates should be able to: -	GREEN	AMBER	RED
Attachment – Paper 1			
Caregiver-infant interactions, Schaffer - stages of attachment, multiple attachments and the role of the father			
Animal studies: Lorenz & Harlow			
Explanations of attachment: learning theory and monotropy (Bowlby) Critical period and internal working model			
Ainsworth's Strange Situation; Secure, insecure-avoidant, insecure-resistant. Van Ijzendoorn - Cultural variations			
Bowlby's theory of maternal deprivation, Romanian orphan studies			
Influence of early attachment on childhood and adult relationships: internal working model			

SPECIFICATION – PSYCHOPATHOLOGY

Paper 1	GREEN	AMBER	RED
Candidates should be able to: -			
3.1.4 (3.2.2 AS) Psychopathology			
1. Definitions of abnormality: Deviation from social norms, failure to function adequately, statistical infrequency and deviation from ideal mental health			
2. Behavioural, emotional and cognitive characteristics of phobias, depression and OCD			
3. Behavioural approach to explaining and treating phobias: two-way process model, classical and operant conditioning, systematic desensitisation, flooding			
4. Cognitive approach to explaining and treating depression: Beck's negative triad and Ellis's ABC model; CBT			
5. Biological approach to explaining and treating OCD; genetic and neural explanations; drug therapy			

SPECIFICATION – APPROACHES

Paper 2 Candidates should be able to: -	GREEN	AMBER	RED
3.2.1 Approaches in Psychology			
1. Origins of Psychology: Wundt, introspection and the emergence of Psychology as a science			
2. Learning approaches: Behaviourism; Classical conditioning - Pavlov, Operant conditioning - Skinner, Social Learning theory – Bandura			
3. Cognitive approach: study of internal mental processes, schema theory, theoretical and computer models to explain mental processes. Emergence of cognitive neuroscience			
4. Biological approach: influence of genes, biological structures and neurochemistry on behaviour. Genotype and phenotype, genetic and evolutionary basis of behaviour			
5. Psychodynamic approach: Freud; the role of the unconscious structure of personality (id, ego superego), defence mechanisms (repression, denial and displacement), psychosexual stages (Oral, Anal, Phallic, Latency, Genital)			
6. Humanistic Psychology: Free will, self-actualisation and Maslow's hierarchy of needs, the self, congruence and the role of conditions of worth. Counselling Psychology.			
7. Comparison of the approaches			

SPECIFICATION – BIOPSYCHOLOGY

Paper 2	Green	Amber	Red
3.2.2 Biopsychology			
1. The divisions of the nervous system: central and peripheral (somatic and autonomic).			
2. The structure and function of sensory, relay and motor neurons. The process of synaptic transmission, including reference to neurotransmitters, excitation and inhibition.			
3. The function of the endocrine system: glands and hormones			
4. The fight or flight response including the role of adrenaline.			
5. Localisation of function in the brain and hemispheric lateralisation: motor, somatosensory, visual, auditory and language centres; Broca's and Wernicke's areas, split brain research. Plasticity and functional recovery of the brain after trauma.			
6. Ways of studying the brain: scanning techniques, including functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI); electroencephalogram (EEGs) and event-related potentials (ERPs); post-mortem examinations.			
7. Biological rhythms: circadian, infradian and ultradian and the difference between these rhythms. The effect of endogenous pacemakers and exogenous zeitgebers on the sleep/wake cycle.			

SPECIFICATION – YEAR 1

RESEARCH METHODS

Paper 2	GREEN	AMBER	RED
Candidates should be able to: -			
3.2.3 Research Methods			
Experimental method: Lab and field, natural & quasi experiments			
Observational techniques: Naturalistic, controlled, overt, covert, participant			
Self-report: Questionnaires and interviews			
Correlations: Analysis of the relationship between co-variables			
Content Analysis			
3.2.3.1 Scientific processes			
Aims			
Hypotheses; directional and non-directional			
Sampling: Random, systematic, stratified, opportunity, volunteer. The difference between a population and a sample			
Pilot studies (an aims of a pilot)			
Experimental Designs: Independent measures, repeated measures and matched pairs designs			
Observational Design: behavioural categories, time and event sampling			
Variables: Independent and dependent, extraneous variables, operationalisation of variables			

Control: Standardisation, counterbalancing and randomisation			
Demand characteristics and investigator effects			
Ethics (including BPS code and how to deal with ethical issues)			
Peer review			
Implications of Psychological research for the economy			
3.2.3.2			
Data Handling and analysis			
Quantitative and qualitative data – difference in these when collecting data			
Primary and secondary data: including meta-analysis			
Descriptive statistics: Measures of central tendency, Measures of dispersion, percentages and positive, negative and zero correlations			
Graphs & charts			
Distributions; normal and skewed			
Correlation co-efficient			
3.2.3.3.			
Inferential Testing			
Sign Test			

Research Methods A2 – additions

What you need to know:	Red	Amber	Green
Reliability across all methods (assessing/improving)			
Reliability ways of assessing: test retest. And inter-observer. improving)			
Reliability - ways of improving			
Types of validity across all methods (face/concurrent/ecological/ temporal)			
Features of Science (Objective/empirical)			
Theory construction and hypothesis testing			
Paradigm and paradigm shifts			
Reporting psychological investigations (abstracts/discussion...)			
Analysis and interpretation of data (descriptive stats – measures of ventral tendency/ dispersion).			
Levels of measurement – nominal, ordinal, interval.			
Case studies			
Content analysis and thematic analysis			
Probability and Significance (Type I/II errors)			
Which statistical test to use and how to use them (Spearman Rho/ Wilcoxon...)			

Issues and Debates

<u>What you need to know:</u>	<u>Red</u>	<u>Amber</u>	<u>Green</u>
Gender & Culture (universality and bias)			
Freewill & Determinism: Hard/Soft determinism.			
F&D: Biological/Environmental/Psychic determinism			
F&D: causal explanations			
Nature-Nurture: Heredity/Biology			
N&N: Environment			
N&N: Interactionist			
Holism & Interactionism: levels of explanation			
H&I: Biological reductionism			
H&I: environmental reductionism			
Idiographic approaches to investigation			
Nomothetic approaches to investigation			
Ethical implications of studies/theory including social sensitivity.			

Option 1 Gender

<u>What you need to know:</u>	Red	Amber	Green
Sex and gender: Stereotypes			
Sex and gender: Bem (1974) Sex Role inventory			
Sex and gender: Hormones (testosterone/oxytocin/oestrogen)			
Sex and gender: Chromosomes			
Klinefelter's syndrome and Turner's syndrome			
Gender explanations: Kohlberg (1966) Gender Constancy/identity/stability			
Gender explanations: Martin and Halverson (1981) Gender Schema			
Gender explanations: Freud (Oedipus/Electra/identification/internalisation)			
Gender explanations: SLT			
Gender explanations: culture and media			
Gender explanations: Atypical			

OPTION 2 Schizophrenia

<u>What you need to know:</u>	<u>Red</u>	<u>Amber</u>	<u>Green</u>
Clinical characteristics.			
Reliability and Validity (diagnosis/co-morbid/culture/overlap)			
Positive symptoms (hallucinations/delusions)			
Negative symptoms (avolition/speech)			
Biological: Genetics			
Biological: Dopamine Hypothesis			
Biological: Neural correlates			
Psycho: Family dysfunction			
Psycho: cognitive explanations			
Diathesis-Stress model			
Drugs: Atypical/typical antipsychotics.			
Cognitive: token economy/behaviour/family therapy			
Interactionist approach			

Option 3 Forensic Psychology

<u>What you need to know:</u>	Red	Amber	Green
Problems defining crime			
Measuring crime (Statistics, victim/offender surveys)			
Offender profiling: top-down - Including organised and disorganised types of offender. bottom-up approach – including investigative Psychology and geographical profiling.			
Biological: historical (atavistic) Lombroso, Genetics, Neural.			
Psychological: Eysenck: criminal personality			
Psychological: Cognitive:			
- Kohlberg - levels of moral reasoning			
- differential association theory (Sutherland 1939)			
- Psycho: (superego/defence mechanisms			
Dealing with behaviour: Custodial Sentencing			
Effects of sentencing. Dooley (1990) (Zimbardo)			
Recidivism			
Behavioural: token economy			
Anger management (Olds and Milner 1954)			
Restorative Justice			