

Higher Psychology (Course Code: C863 76)

SCQF Level 6 (24 Credit Points)

Why study Psychology?

Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and behaviour. Psychology is a research-based subject, and provides the opportunity to conduct practical research. This includes working with human participants in accordance with ethical standards.

This course develops your ability to analyse psychological explanations for individual and social behaviour. You will learn about some of the ways that thoughts and emotions can affect how we feel and behave.

Knowledge of human behaviour is a useful subject for your personal development as well as being relevant to many career paths, including education, medicine and law.

Career Pathways

To see what career areas this subject could lead to and the routes to get there, download and view these career pathways:

[Administration and Management](#)

[Communications and Media](#)

[Health and Medicine](#)

[Law](#)

[Social, Caring and Advisory Services](#)

[Sport](#)

What do I need to get in?

Entry is at the discretion of the school or college, but you would normally be expected to have achieved:

- National 5 Psychology
- National 5 Biology

What will I study?

The course consists of **three** areas of study.

Individual behaviour

You will:

- analyse individual behaviour, investigate topics and learn how these topics can be explained using psychological theories and research evidence
- evaluate and apply theories to show an understanding of individual human behaviour.

Social behaviour

You will:

- analyse how interaction with others shapes social behaviour
- investigate psychological explanations for social behaviour
- use research evidence to analyse how the thoughts, feelings and behaviours of individuals are influenced by their social environment
- apply psychological knowledge and understanding to explain examples of everyday social behaviour.

Research

You will:

- understand and apply the research process and research methods used in psychology
- develop the skills required to conduct and evaluate psychological research.
- develop numerical skills and an understanding of psychological terminology.

How will I be assessed?

The course assessment has **two** components **totalling 120 marks**:

- Component 1: question paper – worth 80 marks (consisting of two sections worth 40 marks each: section 1 Individual behaviour and section 2 Social behaviour)
- Component 2: assignment – worth 40 marks.

For the assignment component, you will research a topic you have studied and produce a psychological report.

Both the question paper and the assignment are set and externally marked by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA).

The grade awarded is based on the total marks achieved across course assessment.

The course assessment is graded A-D.

Study Materials

- [SQA Past Papers Psychology Higher](#)
- [SQA Understanding Standards Psychology](#)

What can I go on to next?

If you complete the course successfully, it may lead to:

- other qualifications in Psychology, social sciences, social studies or related areas.

Further study, training or employment in:

- Arts, Social Sciences and Languages
- Health and Medicine
- Psychology and Counselling
- Social, Caring and Advisory Services