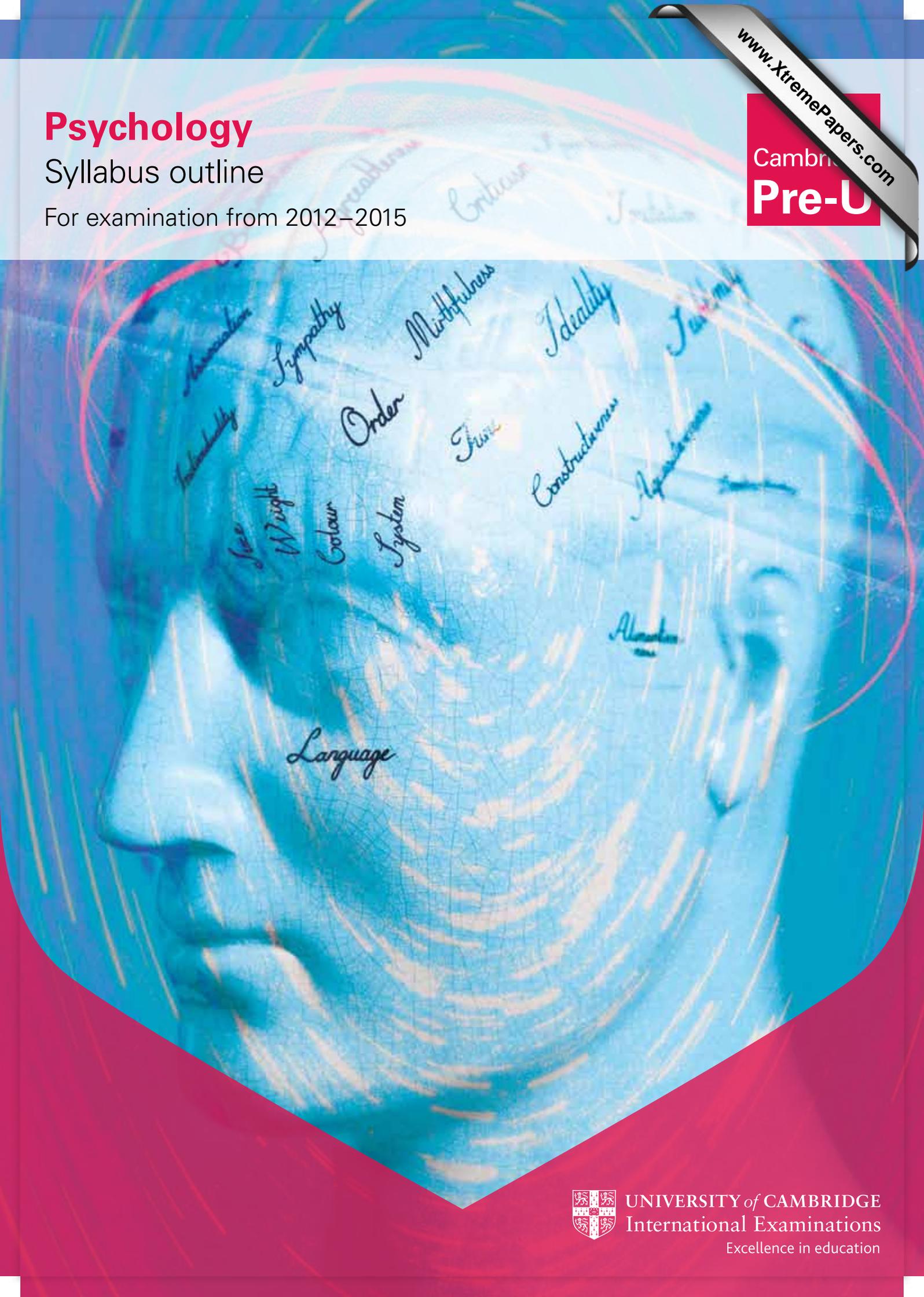


Psychology

Syllabus outline

For examination from 2012–2015



Cambridge Pre-U is available in 28 subjects:

Art and Design	History
Art History	Italian*
Biology	Latin
Business and Management	Literature in English
Chemistry	Mandarin Chinese*
Classical Greek	Mathematics*
Classical Heritage	Music
Comparative Government and Politics	Philosophy and Theology
Drama and Theatre	Physics
Economics	Psychology
French*	Russian*
Further Mathematics*	Spanish*
Geography	Sports Science
German*	
Global Perspectives and Research*	

**a Short Course is also available.*

Feedback from schools



Increased focus and motivation in year 12 pupils
Richer, more coherent educational experience
Encourages wider reading
More independent inquiry and learning
Opportunity to develop and pursue own academic interests
Greater scope for upper-ability pupils to distinguish themselves
More time and support available for lower-ability pupils
Greater maturity at examination time



Cambridge Pre-U overview

Cambridge Pre-U is an exciting qualification for 16–19 year olds who want to go to university. It equips students with the knowledge and skills they need to make a success of their undergraduate studies:

- a solid and coherent grounding in specialist subjects at an appropriate level
- the ability to undertake independent and self-directed learning
- the ability to think laterally, critically and creatively and communicate effectively

Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subjects and Short Courses are stand-alone qualifications, recognised by universities and attracting a rewarding UCAS tariff. They are compatible with A Levels and may be taken in combination with them.

For Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subjects, students take all examination components at the end of a two-year programme of study, and we assess them at the full Cambridge Pre-U standard.

For Cambridge Pre-U Short Courses, students take all examination components at the end of a one-year programme of study. A Short Course grade does not contribute to a Principal Subject result. In this sense, a distinctive feature of Cambridge Pre-U is linearity.

Common characteristics of Cambridge Pre-U syllabuses

- **Design:** focused on the development of high-level knowledge, understanding and skills to prepare for university and beyond, through extensive consultation with teachers, students and universities.
- **Stretch:** built into syllabus content (380 guided learning hours and challenging concepts), assessment (open-ended questions) and grading outcomes (finer differentiation at the top end).
- **Innovation:** new approaches to subjects, greater freedom in subject combination, new topics, new methods of delivery and new forms of assessment.
- **Progression in learning:** Cambridge Pre-U builds on prior knowledge gained at 14–16, where appropriate, and develops broad generic skills (independent study and research skills). Students are better prepared for undergraduate study.
- **Linearity:** assessment at the end of the course makes for greater coherence in teaching and learning.



Cambridge Pre-U Psychology

Cambridge Pre-U Psychology provides a solid foundation for the study of psychology or any related course in higher education.

Curriculum

Cambridge Pre-U Psychology aims to:

- introduce students to the methods of research, theories and concepts of psychology
- create an understanding of the range and limitations of psychological theory and practice
- develop students' skills in analysis, interpretation, application and evaluation
- promote an appreciation and understanding of individual, social and cultural diversity
- develop an understanding of ethical issues in psychology, including moral and ethical implications of psychological research
- encourage students to explore and understand the relationship between psychological theories and research and everyday life
- encourage students to develop communication and presentation skills
- encourage students to explore the latest psychological research
- give students the opportunity to design, carry out and report an individual piece of practical coursework



Syllabus

Component 1:

Key studies and theories

Component 2:

Methods, issues and applications

Fifteen research articles have been chosen with two objectives in mind: to introduce the original research that shaped modern psychology, and to demonstrate how psychological research has been, is, and ought to be undertaken. The studies represent five core approaches in psychology: Cognitive, Social, Developmental, Individual Differences and Biological.

The articles indicate the wide range of methods available in psychological research. By becoming familiar with this body of work students will be taught different methods and techniques, learn to appreciate the difficulties of designing research (matters of ethics, controls, control groups, ecological validity and so forth), and become equipped to evaluate research.

Students should consider either the theory on which research articles are based, or the theory which developed from them. The syllabus has the essential link between theory and research.

Psychological research never ends and the third logical aspect is to consider (briefly) some of the latest developments in research – arising either from theory or from the key study itself.

Component 3:

Key applications

Students choose two of the five options below, which reflect the nature of modern psychology and provide an appropriate context.

- **Abnormality:** e.g. how schizophrenics can be identified by smell disorders, and various impulse control disorders such as kleptomania.
- **Crime:** e.g. methods used by the police to identify liars, investigation of the psychological effects of the London bombings and profiling of serial killers.
- **Environment:** e.g. areas of wayfinding using a driving simulator and how music results in consumers spending more money.
- **Health:** e.g. the diet of children in schools and how television adverts helped smokers to quit.
- **Sport:** e.g. English soccer teams' 'home advantage' and the role of alcohol in spectator aggression in rugby union.

Component 4:

Personal investigation

The personal investigation allows the student the freedom to develop their research skills by designing, conducting and reporting an investigation in any appropriate area of psychology which is of interest to them. Topics can be taken from any area of the syllabus and students choose from a range of methods, taking into account reliability, validity and ethics.

Scheme of assessment

Students take all four components in the same session:

Component	Component title	Duration	Weighting	Type of assessment
1	Key studies and theories	1 hour 30 minutes	20%	Written paper, externally set and marked
2	Methods, issues and applications	1 hour 30 minutes	20%	Written paper, externally set and marked
3	Key applications	3 hours	40%	Written paper, externally set and marked
4	Personal investigation	n/a	20%	Internally marked investigation, with external moderation

Reporting of achievement

Achievement is reported on a scale of nine grades: Distinction 1, 2 and 3, Merit 1, 2 and 3 and Pass 1, 2 and 3. The Distinction 3 standard is aligned to that of Grade A and the Pass 3 is aligned to that of Grade E at A Level. Distinction 1 reports achievement above the new A* grade. The intention is to differentiate more finely and extend reporting at the top end, while keeping the grading scale accessible to the full range of ability currently achieving passes at A Level.

UCAS tariff points

The table shows the UCAS tariff awarded to each Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subject grade and how this compares with the tariff for A Level.

The tariff reflects the additional content within each syllabus and the linear assessment (terminal examinations at full Cambridge Pre-U standard).

Universities which normally ask for three A grades at A Level typically make Cambridge Pre-U offers involving a combination of Distinction 3 and Merit 1. Other offers may include asking for a Merit 2 in place of a B, Merit 3 or Pass 1 for a C, Pass 2 for a D and Pass 3 for an E.

Cambridge Pre-U band	Cambridge Pre-U grade	Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subject UCAS tariff	Equivalent A Level UCAS tariff	Short Course UCAS tariff
Distinction	D1	tbc	n/a	tbc
	D2	145	(A*) 140	tbc
	D3	130	(A) 120	60
Merit	M1	115		53
	M2	101	(B) 100	46
	M3	87		39
Pass	P1	73		32
	P2	59		26
	P3	46	(E) 40	20

Cambridge Pre-U is recognised by all UK universities and many universities abroad, including all US Ivy League universities. For more details, please go to www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/recognition

Support and resources for teachers

We offer a programme of free Cambridge Pre-U INSET training for teachers, accompanied by online support materials including syllabuses, specimen/past papers, mark schemes and example student responses.

A Personal Investigation Guide for Psychology is available, containing exemplar coursework, examiner commentary and guidance on each section of the Personal Investigation.

A free Teacher Guide expands on each syllabus,

to help teachers understand what students are expected to know.

It is written by a teacher for teachers and suggests for each topic:

- a checklist of what to cover with students
- resources, both paper and web based
- additional extension/'stretch and challenge' areas
- further teaching and learning opportunities

Learn more! For more information on Cambridge Pre-U visit www.cie.org.uk/cambridgepreu or contact Customer Services on +44 (0)1223 553554 or email international@cie.org.uk

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