

CAMBRIDGE IGCSE

Psychology 0266

Assessment Overview

Examinations 2027, 2028 and 2029

How the qualification is assessed

The table shows the papers and components described for this syllabus. All candidates take the required components described below. A component's raw mark is the total available on that assessment; its weighting is the share of the qualification result, which may differ from its share of raw marks.

Paper or component	Duration	Raw marks	Weighting	Question or task structure
1: Paper 1	1 h 30 min	90	53%	Memory, sleep, prosocial behaviour and experimental methods
2: Paper 2	1 h 20 min	80	47%	Perception, motivation, language and non-experimental methods

Read the weighting against your qualification route. A longer paper or a larger raw-mark total does not automatically mean a greater final weighting. Prepare for every component that applies to you, including practical, oral or coursework requirements where specified.

What each component requires

Assessment consists of two written papers, and all questions are compulsory.

Paper One lasts one hour and thirty minutes and is worth ninety marks, contributing fifty-three per cent of the qualification. Its first three sections cover memory and forgetting, sleep and dreams, and prosocial behaviour. The final section focuses on experimental research methods and includes a question requiring you to plan aspects of an experiment.

Paper Two lasts one hour and twenty minutes and is worth eighty marks, contributing forty-seven per cent. Its first three sections cover visual perception, motivation and needs, and language development. The final section assesses non-experimental research methods.

In each paper, one of the three psychology-topic sections contains an eight-mark extended response. You will use psychological knowledge, arguments and evidence and apply them to the question presented.

Across both papers, you are assessed on knowledge and understanding, application to real or unfamiliar situations, and the analysis and evaluation of psychological ideas and research methods.

Successful candidates may receive grades from A-star to G.

Preparing the right kind of response

Distinguish an account of a theory from evidence supporting it. Apply relevant concepts to the specific scenario, and evaluate methods through issues such as validity, reliability and ethics. A named limitation needs an explanation of its consequence for the conclusion.

The assessment objectives are visible in the response itself: relevant knowledge, appropriate use of the stimulus or task, a clear method or explanation, and a conclusion where requested. The command word and mark allocation help show the depth required. An answer should respond to the actual question, not reproduce a memorised passage that only partly fits.

Timing and examination arrangements

Begin preparation with accurate, untimed work, then move towards the duration and conditions of your required component. Use mark allocations to guide pacing while allowing time to read instructions and check the response. Any practice pacing advice is study guidance, not a new Cambridge time rule.

Examinations are offered in the June and November series, although the syllabus may not be available in every administrative zone in both series. Availability should therefore be confirmed before registration. Private candidates may enter.

An approved examination centre confirms entries, available component options, deadlines and any practical or speaking arrangements. Preparation-course access does not itself constitute an examination entry. The prescribed named studies support understanding of the psychological concepts and theories. Do not import an A Level requirement to learn and evaluate each named study as an individual core study.

Key pointers: Know your required components, follow question choices precisely and practise the relevant response formats. **Next:** Open **Learning Resources** to see which materials support this preparation.