

VCE Psychology

2017–2021

Written examination – End of year

Examination specifications

Overall conditions

The examination will be sat at a time and date to be set annually by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA). VCAA examination rules will apply. Details of these rules are published annually in the *VCE and VCAL Administrative Handbook*.

There will be 15 minutes reading time and 2 hours and 30 minutes writing time.

The examination will be marked by a panel appointed by the VCAA.

The examination will contribute 60 per cent to the study score.

Content

The *VCE Psychology Study Design 2017–2021* (Units 3 and 4) is the document for the development of the examination. All outcomes in Units 3 and 4 will be examined.

All of the key knowledge that underpins the outcomes in Units 3 and 4, and the key science skills found in the section on ‘Cross-study specifications’ in the study design (pages 11 and 12), are examinable.

Format

The examination will be in the form of a question and answer book.

The examination will consist of two sections.

Section A will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions worth 1 mark each and will be worth a total of 50 marks.

Section B will consist of short-answer and extended-answer questions, including questions with multiple parts. One of the extended-answer questions will be worth 10 marks and will not have multiple parts. The number of questions in Section B may vary from year to year. Section B will be worth a total of 70 marks.

The examination may include questions that refer to visual and/or written material, including scenarios and/or experiments.

All questions will be compulsory. The total marks for the examination will be 120.

Answers to Section A are to be recorded on the answer sheet provided for multiple-choice questions.

Answers to Section B are to be recorded in the spaces provided in the question and answer book.

Criteria

The extended-answer question in Section B that is worth 10 marks and that does not have multiple parts will be assessed against the following criteria:

- identification and explanation of formal psychological terminology relevant to the question
- use of appropriate psychology terminology
- discussion of relevant psychological information, ideas, concepts, theories and/or models and the connections between them
- analysis and evaluation of data, methods and scientific models
- drawing of evidence-based conclusions and explanation of limitations of conclusions

Approved materials and equipment

Pens, pencils, highlighters, erasers, sharpeners and rulers

Relevant references

The following publications should be referred to in relation to the VCE Psychology examination:

- *VCE Psychology Study Design 2017–2021* (Units 3 and 4)
- *VCE Psychology – Advice for teachers 2017–2021* (includes assessment advice)
- *VCAA Bulletin*

Advice

During the 2017–2021 accreditation period for VCE Psychology, examinations will be prepared according to the examination specifications above. Each examination will conform to these specifications and will test a representative sample of the key knowledge from all outcomes in Units 3 and 4, and the key science skills found in the section on 'Cross-study specifications' in the study design (pages 11 and 12).

Examination questions may relate to one or more areas of study and may integrate research methodologies and ethical principles. The weighting of examination questions will reflect approximately the weighting of the outcomes in the study design.

Students will not be expected to calculate any statistics in the examination, but are expected to be able to draw conclusions from descriptive statistics about a sample and hypothesis involved in a specified research study. Students will also be expected to make qualitative generalisations about a research population after considering the research design.

Extended-answer questions may be related to psychological concepts and theories as well as research methods and ethics. Students will not be required to write a response using conventions of psychological report writing in the examination as this skill is assessed through School-Assessed Coursework.

Students should use command/task words, other instructional information within questions and corresponding mark allocations to guide their responses.

A separate document containing a sample examination has been published on the 'Psychology – Exams and Examination Reports' page on the VCAA website.

The sample examination provides an indication of the format of the examination, and the types of questions teachers and students can expect until the current accreditation period is over.

Answers to multiple-choice questions are provided at the end of the sample examination.

Answers to other questions are not provided.