



Exam Topics in Paper One (SL & HL)		
Biological	Cognitive	Sociocultural
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The brain and behaviour • Techniques used to study the brain * • Localization of function* • Neuroplasticity* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Neural network</i> ○ <i>Neural pruning</i> ○ <i>Neuron</i> • Neurotransmitters and their effect on behaviour* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Synapse (and how these relate to excitatory and inhibitory neurotransmitters)#</i> ○ <i>Agonists*</i> ○ <i>Antagonist*</i> • Hormones and their effect on behaviour* • Pheromones and their effects on behaviour* • Genes and their effects on behaviour* • Genetic similarity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Twin and kinship studies</i> • Evolutionary explanation for behaviour* <p>In addition...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research methods used in psychology to study: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The brain, ○ Hormones, ○ Genetics. • Ethical considerations relevant to psychological research on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The brain, ○ Hormones, ○ Genetics. <p>17 SAQ and 10 essay topics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Models of memory** <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Multi-store memory model</i> ○ <i>Working memory model</i> • Schema theory* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Cognitive schema</i> • One model of thinking and decision making* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Rational thinking (controlled)</i> ○ <i>Intuitive thinking (automatic)</i> • Reconstructive memory* • Biases in thinking and decision making* • The influence of emotion on cognition* <p>In addition...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research methods used in psychology to study: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cognitive processes, ○ The reliability of cognitive processes, ○ Emotion and cognition. • Ethical considerations relevant to psychological research on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cognitive processes, ○ The reliability of cognitive processes, ○ Emotion and cognition. <p>11 SAQ and 6 essay topics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The individual and the group • Social identity theory <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Social groups</i> • Social cognitive theory • Formation of stereotypes • The effects of stereotypes on behaviour • Cultural origins and influences on cognition and behaviour.* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Cultural groups</i> • Cultural dimensions* • Enculturation* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Norms</i> • Acculturation* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Assimilation/Assimilate</i> <p>In addition...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research methods used in psychology to study: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The individual and the group ○ Cultural origins and influences on cognition and behaviour. • Ethical considerations relevant to psychological research on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The individual and the group ○ Cultural origins and influences on cognition and behaviour. <p>13 SAQ and 9 essay topics</p>
<p>* Students should study one example. **Students should study two examples. # Exam questions related to excitatory and inhibitory synapses will allow students an option to write about one or the other. (Peter Giddens, posting on behalf of IB Assessment, MyIB Forum, Feb 08th, 2020). Topics in <i>italics</i> are SAQ questions only.</p>		



Exam Topics in Paper One – HL Only Extension Essays		
Biological	Cognitive	Sociocultural
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of animal research in understanding human behaviour • The value of animal models in research to provide insight into human behaviour. • Ethical considerations in animal research. • The above three topics should be studied in relation to the three core topics of the biological approach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The brain and behaviour ○ Hormones and pheromones and behaviour ○ Genes and behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cognitive processing in a technological world • The positive and negative influence of technology on cognitive processes. • Research methods used to understand the influence of technology on cognitive processes. • The above three topics should be studied in relation to the three core topics of the cognitive approach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cognitive processes, ○ The reliability of cognitive processes, ○ Emotion and cognition. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The influence of globalization on individual behaviour • The effect of the interaction of local and global influences on behaviour. • Research methods used to study the influence of globalization and behaviour • The above three topics should be studied in relation to the two core topics of the sociocultural approach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The individual and the group ○ Cultural origins and influences on cognition and behaviour.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>For HL students only, one, two, or all three of the essay questions in Paper One, Section B will be based on the above extension topics.</i> 		

***Note:** For the purpose of clarity, some of the topics titles have been altered slightly from how they appear in the original guide.