

The Perspectives

Introduction

All students must study the following three perspectives of psychology.

- The biological perspective
- The cognitive perspective
- The learning perspective

Students at HL must also study a fourth perspective.

- The humanistic perspective

The perspectives have been selected to provide an understanding of the diverse approaches that have shaped the nature of knowledge and the ways of investigating behaviour within the discipline of psychology.

Structure of the Perspectives

The breadth and depth of study required for each perspective are indicated in the introduction and the learning outcomes for each one. There are eight learning outcomes for each perspective: six are common across all of the perspectives; two are specific to each perspective. The action verbs within the learning outcomes specify the level of knowledge, skills and understanding that will be expected of students after they have studied the perspective.

Each of the perspectives should be explored using the four compulsory topics listed under the heading "Content" on pages 14, 17, 19 and 21. These compulsory topics are:

- development and cultural contexts
- framework
- methodologies
- application.

The topics provide a structure for approaching the perspectives. Students are required to study closely each topic within each of the perspectives, using the content listed in the left-hand column. Suggestions for detailed study are listed in the right-hand column. However, these are suggestions only and teachers are free to choose their own examples when covering the topics.

To cover the topics in depth, teachers should find at least two examples that can be used for all four topics.