

Module specification

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Module Code	PSYON716
Module Title	Assessments in Psychology
Level	7
Credit value	15
Faculty	FSLS
HECoS Code	100497
Cost Code	GAPS
Pre-requisite module	N/A

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Core/Optional/Standalone
MSc Psychology	Core
MSc Psychology with Educational Principles	Core
MSc Psychology with Forensic Principles	Core

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	15 hrs
Placement tutor support hours	0 hrs
Supervised learning hours e.g. practical classes, workshops	0 hrs
Project supervision hours	0 hrs
Active learning and teaching hours total	15 hrs
Placement hours	0 hrs
Guided independent study hours	135 hrs
Module duration (Total hours)	150 hrs

Module aims

Assessments in Psychology aims to provide students with an overview of various means of collecting information using clinical and psychometric assessments. Students will gain an understanding of the role and function of psychological assessments across applied settings. Students will also learn how to evaluate the reliability and validity of a given measure and interpret data produced by these assessments.

Module Learning Outcomes

At the end of this module, students will be able to:

1	Critically discuss the function behind different psychological assessments.
2	Demonstrate and apply critical evaluation skills to different means of psychological assessment
3	Articulate insight into the issues that affect interpretation of psychological assessment results.
4	Understand the in-depth ethical implications of using psychological assessments in applied settings.

Assessment

Indicative Assessment Tasks:

This section outlines the type of assessment task the student will be expected to complete as part of the module. More details will be made available in the relevant academic year module handbook.

Assessment 1: A short report (1000 words) application of common analysis techniques for reliability assessment of psychometric measures.

Assessment 2: The reflective practice (1500 words) assessment

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Duration/Word Count	Weighting (%)	Alternative assessment, if applicable
1	1,2,3,	Written Assignment	1000	40%	NA
1	1,2,4	Written Assignment	1500	60%	NA

Derogations

The minimum mark you need achieve for each module will be one of the following:

- 50%.
- A pass grade (normally only in place where an assessment is competency-based)

Learning and Teaching Strategies

The overall learning and teaching strategy will include adherence to the asynchronous elements of Active Learning Framework via a series of micro-lectures, directed reading and activities. There will be a mix of supporting materials along with directed study for students to complete as they work through the material and undertake the assessment tasks. The use of a range of digital tools within the virtual learning environment together with additional sources of reading will also be utilised to promote breadth and depth of learning.

Welsh Elements

In line with the University's Welsh Medium Scheme, students will be offered the opportunity to submit assessments through the medium of Welsh. This will be drawn to the attention of students through the student handbook.

For those students wishing to engage with the subject area via the medium of Welsh, additional resources will be made available via www.porth.ac.uk, which is the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol resource portal

Indicative Syllabus Outline

- Purpose of psychological assessments in applied and research settings
- Overview of assessment types
- Ethical considerations in the use of assessments
- Assessing ability and capacity
- Quality appraisal of psychometric and clinical assessments
- Clinical interviewing & Risk assessment*
- Observations and other qualitative assessments
- Report writing, communicating findings, and formulating cases

Indicative Bibliography:

Please note the essential reads and other indicative reading are subject to annual review and update.

Essential Reads

Coaley, K. (2014). *An Introduction to Psychological Assessment and Psychometrics*. SAGE

British Psychological Society. (2018). *BPS Code of Ethics and Conduct*. BPS.

Other indicative reading

Furr, R.M. and Bacharach, V.R. (2018). *Psychometrics: An Introduction*. 3rd ed. Los Angeles: SAGE

Sommers-Flanagan, J. and Sommers-Flanagan, R. (2016), *Clinical Interviewing*. 6th ed. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell.

Briesch, A.M., Volpe, R.J. & Ffloyd, R.G. (2018). *School-Based Observation: A Practical Guide to Assessing Student Behaviour*. Guildford Publications

Logan, C. & Johnstone, L. (2012). *Managing Clinical Risk: A Guide to Effective Practice*. Routledge

Indicative journals:

- Psychometrika
- Applied Psychological Measurement
- Journal of Personality Assessment
- Evaluation & the Health Professions
- Psychological Assessment
- Journal of Evaluation in Clinical Practice
- Measurement and Evaluation in Counselling and Development
- Journal of psychoeducational assessment

Administrative Information

For office use only	
Initial approval date	June 2026
With effect from date	September 2026
Date and details of revision	
Version number	1