Hello Psychology students!

Welcome to the world of electronic examinations. In 2019, you will join English Literary Studies and Modern History students as some of the first in Australia to transition from a paper-based end-of-year examination to an online examination.

Following on from the success of the 2018 English Literary Studies online examination, we have some information that you might find useful in your preparation for this year’s electronic examination.

Features of the Psychology electronic exam:

There are only two sections – the short-answer section is worth 80 marks, and the extended response section is worth 40 marks. This hasn’t actually changed from previous years, except that there are no longer three ‘booklets’ like in a paper examination.

The extended response section will have the word count feature turned on. This means you will be able to see how long your response is for each question. There is no word limit, but this might help you plan out your response.

You won’t be asked to draw any graphs!
This feature is not available in the online system, so there will be no questions like this in 2019.

1. Plan out your time at the beginning of the examination. It is suggested that you spend 85 minutes on the short-answer section and 45 minutes on the extended response section. Try using the ‘flag’ feature in the system to mark any questions you aren’t sure about so you can check them before you complete the examination.

2. Remember to leave time to draft your work. You might find yourself saving time by typing your responses, so this presents an opportunity to spend more time on planning and editing. You are expected to demonstrate your ability to use appropriate psychological terminology in the examination.

3. Make sure you know how many marks are allocated to each question, as this will guide how long your response should be. For example, a question worth 2 marks needs one piece of information expressed well. You don’t receive extra marks for long answers that repeat the same information numerous times in the same question.

4. Ensure that you know what the question is asking you to do. The ‘key verb’ at the beginning of the question should help you formulate your response. For example, an ‘explain’ question will require a more in-depth response than a ‘state’ question. If a question refers to a scenario, make sure you use this information in your response.

The next step...

Your best preparation for the online examination in Psychology is your subject learning. Chat with your teacher to discuss how you can best prepare for the exam and refer to the SACE website for familiarisation activities and broader information about the electronic exam system.


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