The Qualifying Topic for the Bachelor of Psychological Studies (graduate-entry) (short: QT or “Cutie”) is a web-based course providing an introduction to psychology. Its chief purpose is to allow graduates who hold a non-psychology degree to meet the criteria for commencing the Bachelor of Psychological Studies (graduate-entry) at Flinders University.

Note that the successful completion of this topic will not be recorded on your Academic Transcript. It is designed solely as a preparation and entry requirement for the Bachelor of Psychological Studies (graduate-entry) at Flinders University. Thus, the Qualifying Topic will not be acknowledged by other universities.

1. Concept

QT is set up as a web-based flexible delivery course, which enables students to choose their own study times and pace in meeting the course objectives and deadlines. The topic is delivered via the Flinders Learning Online (FLO) interactive internet tool, which students can access either on- or off-campus.

In addition, for off-line use, students will receive a DVD that contains the relevant 32 up-to-date lectures from the first-year Psychology topics of the recent two semesters at Flinders University. The DVD includes written outlines as well as audio and video recordings of the lectures.

QT provides an introduction to seven psychological fields, nominally structured in two parts:

- Part 1 (corresponds in content to the Flinders topic PSYC1101/1104):
  - Cognition and Learning
  - Physiological Psychology
  - Developmental Psychology

- Part 2 (corresponds in content to the Flinders topic PSYC1102/1105):
  - Perception
  - Social Psychology
  - Individual Differences
  - Abnormal Psychology

Note, if you have already successfully completed topic PSYC1101/1104 or PSYC1102/1105, you can opt to enrol for only the Part of QT you still need to complete. If you have completed part of first-year psychology at another university, please contact the Director of Studies for the Bachelor of Psychological Studies (graduate-entry) to discuss whether completion of Part 1, Part 2, or both is required.

2. Requirements and Study Load

What does the study entail? Each Part comprises 16 lectures of up to 50 minutes, with recommended readings in the textbook by Wayne Weiten, “Psychology: Themes and variations”. Only the material covered in the lectures is examinable. In terms of assessment, each Part will require:

- one written assignment (an Applications Paper in max. 1000 words, and a Research Report in max. 2000 words, respectively)
one 1-hour examination in multiple-choice format (consisting of 45 questions each).

In addition there will be some statistics and research methods tutorials. Their completion will be expected but not assessed.

The two exams will be web-based, and students can determine when and where they want to sit the exams. They need to inform the coordinator of the date and time, and make sure they use a stable interconnection for the occasion. The one-hour time limit means students will not be able to consult any books (even if they have them available in their private surroundings). Students only have one attempt at each exam.

Study habits vary considerably between students; therefore it is difficult to make firm statements about the study load that the QT involves. However, as an approximation:

- 2 hours (listening, processing, note-taking) for each of the 16 lectures
- up to 1 hour complementary reading per lecture
- 5 hours for statistics and research methods lessons
- 4 hours of work for the written assignment in Part 1; 8 hours of work for the written assignment in Part 2.
- assuming that sufficient time was regularly spent on the lectures (as suggested above), 10 hours of review and preparation for each of the two exams, plus 2 hours for sitting each exam.

In total, each Part will involve around 60-70 hours of study.

3. Enrolment

Students can enrol in the QT any time. Simply complete the enrolment form available from the School of Psychology website and send it to the address stated on the form. Use one of three available modes of paying the fees, as detailed on the form. Once we have received both the enrolment form and fees, you are enrolled in the QT.

You will then be notified of your enrolment and receive the study materials in the post, including the QT Topic Handbook and the DVD of lecture materials. Students can complete the QT at their own pace, but it must be completed (i.e., all assessment submitted) within 6 months of enrolment.

4. Fees

Course fees are $650 for the complete QT and $400 for QT Part 1 or Part 2 only.

5. Contact for further information

Dr Lydia Woodyatt  
Topic Coordinator, Qualifying Topic  
School of Psychology  
Phone: (08) 8201 2449  
Email: lydia.woodyatt@flinders.edu.au

Ms Tracey Quigley  
School Manager  
School of Psychology  
Phone (08) 8201 2333  
Email: tracey.quigley@flinders.edu.au