

Field Social Sciences**Review of *Psychology* unit standards**

Subfield	Domain	ID
Social Science Studies	Psychology	11685, 11686, 11690, 11693, 19256-19262, 19265-19269, 19271-19275, 20646-20654

NZQA National Qualifications Services (NQS) has completed the review of the unit standards listed above.

Date new versions published

June 2012

Planned review date

December 2016

Summary

In 2009, NQS began the review of psychology unit standards. A review panel comprising representatives from secondary schools, universities, the New Zealand Psychological Society, and the Ministry of Education was convened to complete the review. The review resulted in the development of fifteen new psychology standards with merit and excellence grades at Levels 1-3 to replace all existing psychology standards. Assessment support material was also developed to test the standards and support their implementation.

The new psychology unit standards at Level 1 were registered in July 2011. The change report that accompanied that registration is available [here](#). After the registration of the Level 1 standards, the draft Levels 2 and 3 standards and their assessment support material underwent further development to improve grading criteria.

The existing psychology unit standards at Level 4 had negligible usage and have been designated expiring without replacement.

Main changes

- The development of ten new psychology unit standards with grading (achieved, merit, excellence) at NZQF Levels 2 and 3. See [table](#) below.
- The expiry of existing psychology unit standards at Levels 2, 3, and 4: 11685, 11686, 11689, 11693, 19256-19262, 19265-19269, 19271-19275, and 20646-20654. Some of these standards were replaced by the new graded standards. Others were not replaced as it was considered the matrix of graded Psychology unit standards would reflect developments in other social science disciplines and be sufficient to develop coherent programmes of learning.

Category C and D unit standards will expire at the end of December 2013

Impact of changes on the [Exclusions list](#)

For transition purposes, the following exclusions will apply for new unit standards.

New unit standard	Excluded against each of these standards
27688	19261
27690	19271, 19272, 19273, 19274, 19275
27693	11685
27694	20649, 20650
27695	11693
27697	20649, 20650

Detailed list of unit standards – classification, title, level, and credits

All changes are in **bold**.

Key to review category	
A	Dates changed, but no other changes are made - the new version of the standard carries the same ID and a new version number
B	Changes made, but the overall outcome remains the same - the new version of the standard carries the same ID and a new version number
C	Major changes that necessitate the registration of a replacement standard with a new ID
D	Standard will expire and not be replaced

Social Sciences > Social Science Studies > Psychology

ID	Title	Level	Credit	Review Category
11685 27693	Conduct a psychological experiment with direction Conduct a supervised psychological research activity and evaluate its methodology	3 3	4 6	C
11686	Conduct a psychological experiment with guidance	4	4	D
11690	Plan and present a written paper on a contemporary issue in psychology	4	4	D
11693 27695	Evaluate a psychological application Evaluate how theories are applied within a field of psychological practice	3 3	4 6	C
19256	Apply key features in experimental design for psychological research	2	2	D
19257	Describe and apply key features of non-experimental design in psychological research	2	2	D
19258	Describe correlation and demonstrate its application for psychological research	2	1	D
19259	Demonstrate the significance and use of the normal curve in psychological research	2	2	D
19260	Examine assumptions underlying approaches to psychology	2	6	D

19261	Explore use of scientific method in psychological research	2	5	C
27688	Analyse key features in a published piece of experimental psychological research	2	4	
19262	Describe ethical issues in psychological research	2	3	D
19265	Investigate the contribution of social psychology to psychological knowledge	2	3	D
19266	Investigate the contribution of developmental or lifespan psychology to psychological knowledge	2	3	D
19267	Investigate the contribution of the study of individual differences to psychological knowledge	2	3	D
19268	Investigate the contribution of clinical psychology to psychological knowledge	2	3	D
19269	Investigate the contribution of comparative psychology to psychological knowledge	2	3	D
19271	Use psychological knowledge to examine behaviour within a sporting context	2	3	C
19272	Use psychological knowledge to examine behaviour within a legal context	2	3	C
19273	Use psychological knowledge to examine behaviour within a health context	2	3	C
19274	Use psychological knowledge to examine behaviour within an educational context	2	3	C
19275	Use psychological knowledge to examine behaviour within a work context	2	3	C
27690	Analyse the application of theories in fields of psychological practice to scenarios	2	6	
20646	Conduct a psychological survey with direction	3	4	D
20647	Conduct a psychological survey with guidance	4	4	D
20648	Conduct a psychological observation with guidance	4	4	D
20649	Formulate a viewpoint on an issue in psychology that centres on a debate between two opposing views	3	6	C
20650	Explain implications associated with debate between two opposing views on an issue in psychology	3	6	C
27694	Evaluate the use of different approaches in the context of a debate within psychology	3	6	
27697	Evaluate issues in psychological studies	3	4	
20651	Explore the history of psychology	3	4	D
20652	Evaluate psychological research as presented in one journal article	3	6	D
20653	Explain the neurological bases of behaviour	3	4	D
20654	Conduct a psychological observation with direction	3	4	D
27689	Analyse different approaches used in psychology for explaining behaviour	2	6	New
27691	Conduct, analyse, and report on a psychological research activity	2	6	New

27692	Analyse ethical standards in psychological practice	2	4	New
27696	Evaluate the significance of a key piece of research to the understanding of human behaviour	3	4	New