

SECTION 20: EXAMINATIONS

Unseen examinations are used to assess both the academic course component, and competence in research methods and statistics. Examinations are held in late May and Early June of the first and second year.

Papers 1 and 3 assess trainees' understanding and knowledge of theory and its application across clinical areas in which clinical psychologists typically practice.

Paper 2 tests candidates' knowledge of research methods and Paper 4 their knowledge of statistics.

Although the topics of the exams will be taken from the academic curriculum, learning during clinical placements will also be relevant, and through this the candidates' capacity to think as a practising clinical psychologist. Academic revision will need to be supplemented by an engagement in placement practice (the experience gained in clinical contexts during the training), engagement in discussion and debate during the academic programme, broad reading in clinical psychology and related areas and extended periods of reflection on clinical experience.

OUTLINE OF PAPERS

Please note, the following description of examinations reflects practice in the 2021/22 academic year, during the Covid-19 pandemic.

All four papers described below will be delivered remotely and are 'open-book' examinations, meaning that candidates can refer to lecture notes, textbooks and other information sources.

Year 1

There will be two examination papers.

Paper 1: Theory and application of clinical psychology methods (4 hours)

The paper requires candidates to write answers on four out of 12 topics, representing the main topics and clinical approaches taught during year 1 (up to late May). The overall word limit is 3,000 words, and each of the four answers should not exceed 750 words.

The paper is split into four sections, covering psychometrics, neuropsychology and topics covered in the assessment and formulation unit (section A), psychodynamic theory and its application (section B), behaviour therapy and CBT (section C), and other modules including Key Presenting Difficulties, Professional Issues and Cultural Competence (section D). Candidates must answer one question from each of these four sections. Topics from the Central Themes (CT) unit are only covered in the exam in so far as they may present theory that is then picked up in other more substantive lectures but there is no need to revise CT lectures separately. Systemic theory and its application is covered in Paper 3 in Year 2.

Paper 2: Research Methods in Clinical Psychology (3 hours)

This paper examines the teaching in the Research Methods sub-unit. Candidates are required to read a peer-reviewed paper and then answer questions on it. In effect, this asks candidates to apply the teaching on the Research Methods sub-unit to critiquing a paper. The overall word limit is 3,000 words.

Year 2

There will be two examination papers.

Paper 3: Theory and application of clinical psychology methods (advanced level) (4 hours)

The paper requires candidates to write answers on four out of 12 topics, under four sections representing the main topics and clinical approaches taught after the first-year exams and during year 2 (up to late May). The overall word limit is 3,000 words, and each of the four answers should not exceed 750 words.

The paper is split into four sections, covering children and young people (section A), older adults and intellectual disability (section B), systemic therapy (section C), and other topics covered during year 2 under the Clinical Health and Key Presenting Difficulties units (section D). Candidates must answer one question from each of these four sections.

Paper 4: Statistics (4 hours)

This paper examines the teaching in the Statistics sub-unit. Candidates will be given a data set and written details regarding the background of the data, including a description of the population, the measures used and the primary hypotheses of the investigation. Candidates will be expected to use the statistical and computer skills they have gained from the course to answer a series of structured questions about the data set, questions that will be closely linked to the aims and objectives of the source study. Over and above providing numerical and statistical results candidates will also be expected to provide brief narrative answers regarding issues of interpretation. In addition to data analysis that must be completed during the exam, candidates will also have to give brief answers to a series of conceptual questions regarding certain core concepts in statistics, such as basic probability theory, type I and type II error or sampling distributions. As with all the papers described in this section of the handbook, candidates will be allowed to bring textbooks and lecture notes into the examination.

Timing of exams

Year 1, Paper 1	May of Year 1 (for date see timetable)
Year 1, Paper 2	May of Year 1 (for date see timetable)
Year 2, Paper 3	May of Year 2 (for date see timetable)
Year 2, Paper 4	May of Year 2 (for date see timetable)

Marking

Marking procedures are outlined in section 24 of the handbook.

Re-sits

For Papers 1, 2 and 3 the re-sits will be scheduled by UCL Examinations under the Late Summer Assessments programme. This is usually within a three-week period from the third week of August.

For the Statistics Examination this will be usually the first week of September and will be scheduled by the Course.

Examination Arrangements for Students with Disabilities or medical conditions

UCL makes provision for students who have a disability or medical condition that would make it difficult to undertake an examination under standard examination conditions.

Initially you may wish to discuss your needs with your course tutor, who will be aware of the procedure.

You should submit a request for alternative arrangements well in advance of the exam if you wish to be considered, as it is UCL Examinations Section (not the Course) that grants permission for any special arrangements. Applications should be submitted as early in the

academic year as possible, and **not later than six weeks before the start of your first examination.**

Specific information about arrangements for students with disabilities can be found at: www.ucl.ac.uk/disability/special-examination-arrangements

Instructions on how to apply can be found at: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/students/support-and-wellbeing/disability-support/reasonable-adjustments-your-assessments>