



## Diploma in Psychological Testing: a proposal

The British Psychological Society (BPS) Diploma in Psychological Testing would be a high-level qualification, the holder of which would be confirmed as having considerable expertise in psychological testing. It would not replace the current system of certification available to practising professionals, but instead would represent a top-level standard indicating awareness and understanding of both practice and principles of psychological testing.

It is proposed that the diploma would consist of three sections:

1. Units 1 - 4 would consist of formal knowledge about psychological testing, to be assessed primarily through online assessment, although an equivalent form of examination would be made available in the event of special circumstances or needs.
2. Unit 5 would require candidates to produce practice reports (approximately 4-6k words) which could take the form of:
  - Case studies, each of which illustrates different aspects of psychological testing, and which demonstrate that the candidate possesses a relevant knowledge of test application in their own professional area.
  - Test use in practice - reflection, application & analysis: provides candidates with an opportunity to reflect on their own practice and analyse the impact of their own practice on clients and systems.
  - Systemic evaluation of test data in context: requires candidates to analyse test data over an institution or similar context.
3. Unit 6 would take the form of an original piece of research by the candidate into an aspect of psychological testing, assessed through the submission of a formal dissertation.

### Proposed structure:

Units	Title	Credits	Proposed Assessment
01	Principles of psychological testing	10	Combined multiple choice questionnaires, written output and observed evidence
02	Types and formats of testing	10	Combined multiple choice questionnaires, written output and observed evidence
03	Test construction	10	Combined multiple choice questionnaires, written output and observed evidence
04	Contexts of test use	10	Combined multiple choice questionnaires, written output and observed evidence
05	Practice Reports	30	Written outputs with total of approximately 4000 - 6000 word equivalence

06	Applied project - Research project or equivalent	50	Extended writing - 5000 words
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Total: 120 credits

Candidate must complete 120 credits in total

### **Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL)**

APL would be given for candidates already possessing certification of proficiency in psychological testing, as follows:

Holders of the BPS Assistant Test User: Test administration qualification would be allowed exemption from unit 1.

Holders of the BPS Test User qualification would be allowed exemption from units 1 and 2.

Holders of the BPS Specialist in Test Use qualification would be allowed exemption from units 1, 2 and 3.

All candidates would be required to complete modules 4, 5 & 6.

### **European Qualifications Framework (EQF)**

The Diploma would be an educational qualification at level 7 of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF).

### **Content of units**

#### **01 - Principles of psychological testing**

This section would cover ethical issues, issues of professionalism and good conduct, how to conduct tests and handle test results, and other general principles relating to psychological testing.

#### **02 - Types and formats of testing**

This section would cover the various types of psychological test, such as idiographic and nomothetic tests, aptitude, personality, intelligence and diagnostic testing. It would also include test formats such as computer-administered tests, gamified tests, inductive and projective tests, group-administered and individual tests and simulations.

#### **03 - Test construction**

This section would cover the requirements of rigorous test development, including issues of reliability and validity, item selection, scaling and scale development, ipsative and nomothetic testing, the development of statistical connections between scales through factor and cluster analysis, the uses and types of summary score and the development and relevance of population norms.

#### **04 - Contexts of test use**

The purpose of this section is to ensure that all candidates have a broad working knowledge of other contexts of test use in addition to their specialised areas. It would therefore cover occupational / educational / forensic / clinical / counselling / sports / community and any other

areas of relevance for psychological testing, highlighting commonalities and differences as appropriate.

## **05 - Practice Reports**

### **05A - Case studies**

These should be drawn from the candidate's experience and would provide the opportunity for the candidate to reflect on their own experience. Candidates would be expected to produce 2 case studies, each of which illustrates a different aspect of psychological testing, and which demonstrate that the candidate possesses a relevant knowledge of test application in their own professional area. Each case study would be assessed through a written, clearly structured report, 2 - 3,000 words in length.

### **05B - Test use in practice**

Candidates would reflect on their own practice and analyse the impact of their own practice on clients and systems. Candidates would build on assessment practice and evaluate progress against goals or targets. They would review and analyse current assessment practice across the setting in which they work and make proposals for change as appropriate. Normally assessed but 2 or 3 written outputs totally up to about 6000 words equivalent.

### **05C - Data evaluation**

Candidates would analyse test data over an institution or similar context. A thorough statistical analysis would be expected to demonstrate a thorough understanding of data at a systemic level. A written report, to include relevant mathematical analysis of about 6000 words equivalent would be expected.

## **06 - Extended writing**

An extended piece of critical writing for publication. It should be designed to further knowledge of the area, with respect to testing in general, to developing practitioner expertise, or as an extended literature analysis. The dissertation would be assessed by a written report of approximately 5000 words.

We would like to know what you think about the idea of a Diploma in Psychological Testing. To answer our survey, please click [here](#).