

# PS355-15 Attention

**26/27**

**Department**

Psychology

**Level**

Undergraduate Level 3

**Module leader**

Melina Kunar

**Credit value**

15

**Module duration**

12 weeks

**Assessment**

33% coursework, 67% exam

**Study location**

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

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## Description

### Introductory description

The aim of this module is to provide a broad understanding of attention, why we need it, how it works and what happens when it breaks down.

### Module aims

The aim of this module is to provide a broad understanding of attention, why we need it, how it works and what happens when it breaks down. Topics include how we can select just a few items among many; whether we select the items themselves or the locations they occupy; whether there are some items that we cannot help but attend; how attention can be affected by brain damage; how we can sometimes fail to see items that appear right in front of our eyes; and how we use modern brain-scanning techniques to investigate attention.

### Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

The module will cover topics such as Perceptual load and Attention, The Control of Attention, Spatial versus Object-based Attention, Unilateral Neglect, Divided Attention, Visual Search and

Memory and The Limits of Attention. We will also look at Brain Imaging Techniques Within Attention

## Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Critically evaluate the 'classical' attention paradigms (such as Inhibition of Return and Negative Priming etc.) along with some more recent experimental paradigms
- Critically evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of multiple brain scanning techniques used to investigate attention, with examples of how each technique has been used in research.
- Critically evaluate the evidence for and against several main theories of attention.
- Critically evaluate theories showing why attention is impaired after brain lesions, as well as critically evaluating theories showing normal temporal and spatial limits of attention.
- Critically evaluate theories of how we use attention to help us search and relate to the visual environment.

## Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

[Specific reading list for the module](#)

## Subject specific skills

Understanding of the main theories of attention  
Understanding of temporal and spacial limits of attention  
Evaluation of experimental paradigms  
Evaluation of different brain scanning techniques

## Transferable skills

Critically evaluation of evidence and research  
Effective communication skills to develop a cogent argument supported by relevant evidence and being sensitive to the needs and expectations of an audience  
Familiarity with collecting and organising stored information found in library book and journal collections  
effective personal planning skills

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## Study

## Study time

<b>Type</b>	<b>Required</b>
Lectures	12 sessions of 2 hours (16%)
Seminars	10 sessions of 1 hour (7%)
Private study	116 hours (77%)
Total	150 hours

## Private study description

116 hours Guided Student Study.

## Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

## Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

## Assessment group D6

### Weighting Study time Eligible for self-certification

#### Assessment component

Essay	33%	Yes (extension)
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#### Reassessment component is the same

#### Assessment component

Centrally-timetabled examination (Online) ~Platforms - WAS	67%	No
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- Online examination: No Answerbook required

#### Reassessment component is the same

## Feedback on assessment

assessed via annotated copy and academic guidance form; exam performance via personal tutor or online.

[Past exam papers for PS355](#)

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## Availability

### Courses

This module is Optional for:

- UPHA-L1CA Undergraduate Economics, Psychology and Philosophy
  - Year 3 of L1CA Economics, Psychology and Philosophy
  - Year 3 of L1CC Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (Behavioural Economics Pathway)
  - Year 3 of L1CD Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (Economics with Philosophy Pathway)
  - Year 3 of L1CE Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (Philosophy and Psychology Pathway)
- UPHA-L1CB Undergraduate Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (with Intercalated Year)
  - Year 4 of L1CG Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (Behavioural Economics Pathway) (with Intercalated Year)
  - Year 4 of L1CH Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (Economics with Philosophy Pathway) (with Intercalated Year)
  - Year 4 of L1CJ Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (Philosophy and Psychology Pathway) (with Intercalated Year)
  - Year 4 of L1CB Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (with Intercalated Year)
- Year 3 of UPSA-C800 Undergraduate Psychology
- Year 4 of UPSA-C801 Undergraduate Psychology (with Intercalated year)
- Year 3 of UPSA-C804 Undergraduate Psychology with Education Studies
- Year 4 of UPSA-C806 Undergraduate Psychology with Education Studies (with Intercalated Year)

This module is Unusual option for:

- Year 3 of UPHA-L1CA Undergraduate Economics, Psychology and Philosophy

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 3 of UPSA-C804 Undergraduate Psychology with Education Studies

This module is Option list B for:

- Year 3 of UPHA-VL78 BA in Philosophy with Psychology
- Year 4 of UPHA-VL79 BA in Philosophy with Psychology (with Intercalated year)
- Year 1 of TPSS-C8P9 Postgraduate Taught Psychological Research
- Year 4 of UPHA-VL80 Undergraduate Philosophy with Psychology (with Work Placement)

This module is Option list C for:

- Year 3 of UPSA-C802 Undergraduate Psychology with Linguistics
- Year 4 of UPSA-C805 Undergraduate Psychology with Linguistics (with Intercalated Year)

This module is Unusual option for:

- Year 4 of UPSA-C805 Undergraduate Psychology with Linguistics (with Intercalated Year)