

Hindi Vidya Prachar Samiti's
Ramniranjan Jhunhunwala College of
Arts, Science & Commerce (Autonomous), Ghatkopar (W), Mumbai-86.

Minutes of the Meeting: Board of Studies in Psychology

Academic Year 2022-23

[September 21, 2022, 11:00 am to 12:30 pm]

Member Composition:

Sr. No.	Member	Designation	Role
1	Dr. Amita Valmiki	Head, Dept. of Philosophy, R. J. College	Chairperson
2	Mr. Chinmay Bapat	Asst. Prof. & In-charge, Dept. of Psychology, R. J. College	In-charge Faculty
3	Ms. Shephali Apte	Faculty, Dept. of Psychology, R. J. College	Faculty
4	Dr. Uma Shankar	Principal & Head, Dept. of Philosophy, SIES College	Subject Expert & Guest (Parent University)
5	Dr. Sangeeta Kamath	Head, Dept. of Psychology, R. Ruia College	Subject Expert (Parent University)
6	Dr. Mohita Junnarkar	Assoc. Prof. & Asst. Dean Research, Jindal Institute of Behavioural Sciences	Subject Expert (outside Parent University)
7	Ms. Darshana Kulkarni	Asst. Prof., Maniben Nanavati Women's College	Subject Expert (outside Parent University)
8	Mr. Adwait Kapileshwari	Sports Psychologist	Industry Expert

MINUTES

Agenda for the meeting:

- Continuation of the current F.Y.B.A. & S.Y.B.A. Syllabus &
- Curriculum Feedback: F.Y.B.A. (2021-22; 2022-23) & S.Y.B.A. (2022-23).
- Approval for T.Y.B.A. Syllabus (adapted from the University of Mumbai Syllabus with a few changes / additions / reordering of content).
- Transition from 120 to 132 credits in accordance with revised credit distribution in the institution: Introduction of Research Project in the T.Y.B.A. Practicals Paper VIII.
- Discussion on introducing new experiments in the T.Y.B.A. Practicals Paper; and inviting experts' suggestions on potential psychological tests to be introduced.

Curriculum Reforms:

F.Y.B.A. Syllabus:

In the previous academic year (2021-22), the F.Y.B.A. syllabus adapted from University of Mumbai F.Y.B.A. syllabus (brought into force with effect from the academic year 2018-2019) was adopted as the same. With the consensus of the members of the Board of Studies, the same syllabus would be continued for the next academic year (2023-24).

Only minor changes were proposed with reference to the presentation of the subunits of syllabus topics. In favour of achieving uniformity in structure (same number of subunits under each unit; combining related subunits into one) & simplicity in understanding – for the students as well as other stakeholders, the proposed changes in syllabus presentation were approved by the board.

The standard as well as alternative evaluation methods accepted in the previous meeting will be continued the same.

S.Y.B.A. Syllabus:

For the current academic year (2022-23), with the Department of Psychology, RJC's first batch in second year of the B. A. Programme, University of Mumbai S.Y.B.A. syllabus (implemented from the academic year 2017-2018) was adopted with a few additions – as per the discussions in the previous meeting.

The mentioned additions mainly pertained to paper III: Developmental Psychology (RJAUPSY302 & RJAUPSY402). In the paper, the neglected stages of development in adolescence and adulthood were incorporated in the Semester IV syllabus as was suggested by the subject-experts.

A more recent version of the University of Mumbai S.Y.B.A. syllabus (implemented from the year 2019-20) was not considered on the grounds that foundational concepts – in both paper II: Social Psychology (such as Social Cognition & Individuals in Groups) & paper III: Developmental Psychology (the early stages of development) – were neglected. The same justification was agreed upon by the board members.

Changes: Subject experts advised to incorporate the chapters in Social Psychology on 'Liking, Love, & other relationships' and 'Prosocial Behaviour' which were missed in the current syllabus (but present in the University of Mumbai 2019-20 syllabus) while favouring the earlier version (as mentioned above). Hence these concepts will be incorporated in the existing units in Semesters III & IV respectively within the appropriate and relevant chapters.

As per the recently revised credit structure (120 to 132) in the institution, a discipline specific elective (DSE) named 'Psychological Inquiry' was proposed (in two parts) in the previous meeting. The first part of the same was implemented from the odd Semester of the current academic year.

The standard as well as alternative evaluation methods accepted in the previous meeting will be continued the same.

Curriculum Feedback (2022-23 ongoing):

A tentative curriculum feedback on the current academic year was presented in the form of faculty observations. Successful implementation of the DSE at the S.Y.B.A. level,

remedial lectures & bridge course conducted by the faculty, and other updates on Department & Psychology Association – ‘PsychoSphere’ activities conducted as in the hope of providing interdisciplinary exposure & industry exposure to students were briefly discussed. Furthermore, percentage of students having successfully cleared the F.Y.B.A. examination as well as the remaining students on track to clearing their A.T.K.T. examination was discussed as an estimate of achieving the outcome based education.

As mentioned further, the formal curriculum feedback for the year 2022-23 was kept on the agenda of the next BOS meeting – nearing successful completion of this academic year.

T.Y.B.A. Syllabus & Evaluation methods:

The T.Y.B.A. syllabus was adopted with certain changes and additions to the University of Mumbai T.Y.B.A. syllabus (implemented from the year 2020-2021). The major changes included – transition from 120 to 132 credits with revised credit structure in the institution: introduction of 3 additional credits & enhanced curriculum in Paper VIII at the T.Y.B.A. level along with justification; and additions to the syllabi of Papers VII (Cognitive Psychology) & IX (Counselling Psychology). Following syllabi (with or without curriculum reforms) for respective papers of T.Y.B.A. Psychology were accepted by the board for implementation from the academic year 2023-24.

- **Paper IV: Psychological Testing & Statistics (RJAUPSY501 & RJAUPSY601)**

There were no revisions to the syllabus contents, however only minor changes were made in reordering of contents according to relevance and their connection with other concepts in the syllabus structure.

On the experts’ suggestion, the reference book by Mangal S. K. (1987) – ‘*Statistics in Psychology and Education*’ shall also be included in the list of references for the paper – for its relevance to Indian education and simplified explanation of concepts.

- **Paper V: Abnormal Psychology (RJAUPSY502 & RJAUPSY602)**

There were no revisions to syllabus contents of Paper V. For better formalization, it was only suggested to rename the Unit II in Semester V as only ‘Etiology’ & not ‘Causal Factors: Etiology’.

- **Paper VI: Industrial / Organizational Psychology (RJAUPSY503 & RJAUPSY603)**

With no major changes to syllabus contents of Paper VI, minor additions of neglected topics such as ‘Ethics’ & ‘Emotions at work’ in the relevant units of Semester V & VI respectively were accepted. Apart from these additions, there were a few changes in syllabus structure. Contents were only reordered according to relevance and their connection with other concepts.

- **Paper VII: Cognitive Psychology (RJAUPSY504 & RJAUPSY604)**

In Paper VII, Galotti’s (2015) – *‘Cognitive Psychology: In and Out of the Laboratory. (5th ed.)’* was proposed to be considered as the primary reference book and the same was approved by the subject-experts. Specifically for the topic on ‘Consciousness’ in Semester V, Sternberg & Sternberg’s (2017) – *‘Cognitive Psychology’* was accepted as the reference book.

In Semester V, to incorporate a new Unit I: ‘Foundations of Cognitive Psychology & The Brain’, the separate units on Short-term & Working Memory, and Long-term Memory were proposed in a combined & single – Unit IV. However board recognized the need for greater weightage to be given to the concepts of memory – with high amount of contents to be covered and the majority of research being conducted in the field of memory.

In light of the above, in Semester V, the accepted syllabus will contain the units on Foundations of Cognitive Psychology & Perception as a combined Unit I; Attention & Consciousness as Unit II; and for the deserved weightage for the concepts of memory – with a separate Unit III for Sensory, Short-Term, & Working Memory and Unit IV for Long-term Memory.

In semester VI, aligned with the primary reference book, Unit I – the topic of ‘Learning’ was considered with ‘Knowledge Representation’. Unit II was separately devoted to Visual Imagery – according to the appropriate weightage warranted. Consequently, the

interconnected concepts of ‘Reasoning’ & ‘Decision Making’ were clubbed together in Unit IV.

- **Paper VIII: Practicals in Psychology: Experiments, Testing, & Research (RJAUPSY505 & RJAUPSY605)**

Additional 3 credits under the transition from 120 to 132 credits:

- For additional 2 credits: The major addition to Paper VIII was introduction of the Research Project (Proposal in Semester V; Conduction & Report in Semester VI).
- Another additional credit: for compulsory conduction of two Psychological Tests for the Internal Assessment per Semester; and in acknowledgment of additional engagement hours (6 hours per week) as well as the exhaustive nature of the curriculum of this paper.

Other additions:

Introduction of an additional unit on ‘Introduction to Research Methodology’ (focusing on basics of research process: research ideas, variables, operationalization, hypothesis, research strategy, designs & statistics etc.) in Semester V, and a separate unit on ‘Academic writing & Ethics’ in Semester VI. On the experts’ suggestion, the reference book by Kothari C. R. (2008) – ‘*Research Methodology-Methods and Techniques*’ shall also be included in the list of references for the paper – for its relevance to Indian education and simplified explanation of concepts.

The board agreed that the above addition would facilitate:

- Strong foundations for Research Project (Proposal, Conduction, & Report) – which has been introduced newly in the Practicals Paper.
- Supplementing the justification of additional three credits for Paper VIII.

Furthermore, the experts noted considering ‘PEBL’ online open source software along with the CogLab software for conduction of computerized experiments in Semester VI. The same consideration will also be formalized in the syllabus along with the above additions suggested.

Lastly, it was advised to ensure that the types of correlation to be taught in Paper IV: Psychological Testing & Statistics – are practiced manually and/or in Microsoft Excel, R Software, or similar computer applications – along with administration and interpretation of Psychometric Tests. The same will be formalized in the syllabus as well.

- **Paper IX: Counselling Psychology (RJAUPSY506 & RJAUPSY606)**

With only a minor addition of the neglected topic: ‘Counselling & Disability’ in Semester V; in Semester VI, the first three units: ‘Therapeutic Presence: Importance of Listening’, ‘Empathic Responding’, and ‘Other skills’ – were combined into Unit I – to emphasize the inter-relatedness of these counselling skills with a more practical approach. The contents of unit II: ‘Process in Counselling’ were adopted the same – however the conceptual framework was followed from the reference book by Gladding (2018). Two new units were added, namely ‘Career Counselling over the Lifespan’ and ‘Marriage, Couple, & Family Counselling’ (Unit III & IV respectively) to make the curriculum more practical-based and rich in the variety; as well as to increase the industry-relevance of the contents offered.

General Suggestions:

The following general suggestions with regards to the syllabi were accepted for implementation

- Refinement of Course Outcomes (C.O.s) & Learning Outcomes (L.O.s) in each paper.
- To keep lecture distribution for different Units fairly equal in order to balance the same with the fairly equal-weightage given in evaluation.

Proposed agenda for the next meeting:

- Adding relevant Research Journal – & other Reference – Articles in the respective papers of S.Y.B.A. & T.Y.B.A. Psychology.
 - Emphasis on Indian Knowledge System in the additional reference material to be added.
- Finalization of Psychological Tests & Experiments to be introduced in the T.Y.B.A. Paper VIII: Practicals in Psychology: Experiments, Testing, & Research (RJAUPSY505 & RJAUPSY605)
 - Discussion over the prospects of newly introduced experiments in terms of their viability & supporting rationale.
- Modes of Evaluation and Assessment for the T.Y.B.A. Psychology Papers.
- Presenting the Learning Objective Curriculum Framework: with updated Programme Outcomes (POs), & Programme Specific Outcomes (PSOs).
- Presenting the Curriculum Feedback for the year 2022-23.



Mr. Chinmay S. Bapat
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Department of Psychology