

# Psychology

## Units 1-2

As a science, Psychology aims to describe, explain and predict thoughts, feelings and behaviour. Through the use of scientific research methods, students will be able to develop skills in analytical and critical thinking. Students analyse research methodologies associated with classic and contemporary theories, consider ethical issues associated with the conduct of research and apply these methods when conducting group and/or individual investigations.

### UNIT 1

Human development involves changes in thoughts, feelings and behaviours. In this unit students investigate the structure and functioning of the human brain and the role it plays in the overall functioning of the human nervous system. Students explore brain plasticity and the influence that brain damage may have on a person's psychological functioning. They consider the complex nature of psychological development, including situations where psychological development may not occur as expected.

### LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Group discussions and activities, reading and note taking, worksheets, conducting and reporting research experiments, visual presentations, multimedia investigations and practice exam questions.

### KEY SKILLS REQUIRED

Being organised and remaining up to date with all reading, class work and homework, succinctly presenting and analysing information.

### ASSESSED TASKS

The assessment tasks can range from annotated visual displays, tests, analysis of and write up of research, written report on an experiment.

### UNIT 2

A person's thoughts, feelings and behaviours are influenced by a variety of biological, psychological and social factors. In this unit students investigate how perception of stimuli enables a person to interact with the world around them and how their perception of stimuli can be distorted. They evaluate the role social cognition plays in a person's attitudes, perception of themselves and relationships with others. Students explore a variety of factors and contexts that can influence the behaviour of an individual and groups. They examine the contribution that classical and contemporary research has made to the understanding of human perception and why individuals and groups behave in specific ways.

### LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Group discussions and activities, reading and note taking, worksheets, conducting and reporting research experiments, visual presentations, multimedia investigations and practice exam questions.

### KEY SKILLS REQUIRED

Being organised and remaining up to date with all reading, class work and homework, succinctly presenting and analysing information.

### ASSESSED TASKS

The assessment tasks can range from annotated visual displays, tests, analysis of and write up of research, written report on an experiment and end of semester written examination.

# Psychology

## Units 3-4

As a science, Psychology aims to describe, explain and predict thoughts, feelings and behaviour. Through the use of scientific research methods students will be able to develop skills in analytical and critical thinking.

### UNIT 3

The nervous system influences behaviour and the way people experience the world. In this unit students examine both macro-level and micro-level functioning of the nervous system to explain how the human nervous system enables a person to interact with the world around them. They explore how stress may affect a person's psychological functioning and consider the causes and management of stress. Students investigate how mechanisms of memory and learning lead to the acquisition of knowledge, the development of new capacities and changed behaviours. They consider the limitations and fallibility of memory and how memory can be improved.

#### LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Group discussions and activities, reading and note taking, worksheets, conducting and reporting research experiments, visual presentations, collaborative work projects and exam preparation.

#### KEY SKILLS REQUIRED

Organisation, application of time management skills to remain up to date with all reading, class work and homework, succinctly analysing and presenting information.

#### ASSESSED TASKS

The assessment tasks can range from annotated visual displays, tests, analysis of and write up of research, written report on an experiment.

### UNIT 4

Consciousness and mental health are two of many psychological constructs that can be explored by studying the relationship between the mind, brain and behaviour. In this unit students examine the nature of consciousness and how changes in levels of consciousness can affect mental processes and behaviour. They consider the role of sleep and the impact that sleep disturbances may have on a person's functioning. Students explore the concept of a mental health continuum and apply a biopsychosocial approach, as a scientific model, to analyse mental health and disorder. They use specific phobia to illustrate how the development and management of a mental disorder can be considered as an interaction between biological, psychological and social factors.

#### LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Group discussions and activities, reading and note taking, worksheets, conducting and reporting research experiments, visual presentations, collaborative work projects and exam preparation.

#### KEY SKILLS REQUIRED

Organisation, application of time management skills to remain up to date with all reading, class work and homework, succinctly analysing and presenting information.

#### ASSESSED TASKS

The assessment tasks can range from annotated visual displays, tests, analysis of and write up of research, written report on an experiment and end of semester written examination.

#### VCAA ASSESSMENT –The overall Study Score will consist of:

School Assessed Coursework (50%) and 2 ½ hour written examination in November (50%).