

PSYCHOLOGY

Psychology is a multifaceted discipline that seeks to describe, explain, understand and predict human behaviour and mental processes. It includes many sub-fields of study that explore and seek to better understand how individuals, groups, communities and societies think, feel and act.

VCE Psychology is designed to enable students to explore the complex interactions between thought, emotions and behaviour. They develop an insight into biological, psychological and social factors and the key science skills that underpin much of psychology. It is designed to promote students' understanding of how society applies such skills and psychological concepts to resolve problems and make scientific advancements. The study is designed to promote students' confidence and their disposition to use the information they learn in the study in everyday situations.

Students who study VCE Psychology can consider a pathway that can lead to a range of careers. Areas that registered psychologists may work in include clinical, developmental, educational, environmental, forensic, health, neuropsychology, sport and exercise, and organisational psychology. Psychologists can also work areas such as academia and research institutions, medical research, management and human resources, and government, corporate and private enterprises, such as support services in educational and institutional settings.

Unit 1

How are Behaviour and Mental Processes Shaped?

AREAS OF STUDY:

- What influences psychological development?
- How are mental processes and behaviour influenced by the brain?
- How does contemporary psychology conduct and validate psychological research?

OUTCOMES:

On completion of this unit, students should be able to:

1. Discuss complexity of psychological development over the life span, and evaluate ways of understanding and representing psychological development.
2. Analyse the role of the brain in mental processes and behaviour and evaluate how brain plasticity and brain injury can change biopsychosocial functioning.
3. Identify, analyse and evaluate the evidence available to answer a research question relating to contemporary psychology.

ASSESSMENT FOR OUTCOME 1&2

For each outcome, at least one task selected from:

- analysis and evaluation of an experiment or case study
- a data analysis of generated primary and/or collated secondary data
- reflective annotations of a logbook of practical activities
- media analysis of one or more contemporary media texts
- a literature review
- response to a psychological issue or ethical dilemma
- a modelling or simulation activity
- problem-solving involving psychological concepts, skills and/or issues
- a report of a scientific investigation, including the generation, analysis and evaluation of primary data.
- a report of a student-adapted or student-designed scientific investigation using a selected format, such as a scientific poster, an article for a scientific publication, a practical report, an oral presentation, a multimedia presentation or a visual representation

S or N based on the demonstrated achievement of the outcomes specified above.

Unit 2

How Do Internal and External Factors Influence Behaviour & Mental Processes?

AREAS OF STUDY:

- How are people influenced to behave in particular ways?
- What influences a person's perception of the world?
- How do scientific investigations develop understanding of influences on perception and behaviour?

OUTCOMES:

On completion of this unit, students should be able to:

1. Analyse how social cognition influences individuals to behave in specific ways and evaluate factors that influence individual and group behaviour.
2. Explain the roles of attention and perception, compare gustatory and visual perception and analyse factors that may lead to perceptual distortions.
3. Adapt or design and then conduct a scientific investigation related to internal and external influences on perception and/or behaviour and draw an evidence-based conclusion from generated primary data.