

PSYCHOLOGY

Unit 3

How Does Experience Affect Behaviour and Mental Processes?

AREAS OF STUDY:

- How does the nervous system enable psychological functioning?
- How do people learn and remember?

OUTCOMES:

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

1. Analyse how the functioning of the human nervous system enables a person to interact with the external world, and evaluate the different ways in which stress can affect psychobiological functioning.
2. Apply different approaches to explain learning to familiar and novel contexts and discuss memory as a psychobiological process.

ASSESSMENT:

See Unit 4

Unit 4

How is Mental Wellbeing Supported and Maintained?

AREAS OF STUDY:

- How does sleep affect mental processes and behaviour?
- What influences mental wellbeing?
- How is scientific inquiry used to investigate mental processes and psychological functioning?

OUTCOMES:

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

1. Analyse the demand for sleep and evaluate the effects of sleep disruption on a person's psychological functioning.
2. Discuss the concept of mental wellbeing, apply a biopsychosocial approach to explain the development and management of specific phobia, and discuss protective factors that contribute to the maintenance of mental wellbeing.
3. Design and conduct a scientific investigation related to mental processes and psychological functioning, and present an aim, methodology and method, results, discussion and conclusion in a scientific poster.

ASSESSMENT:

For each outcome for each Unit 3 or 4, one task selected from:

- analysis and evaluation of at least one psychological case study, experiment, model or simulation
- analysis and evaluation of generated primary and/or collated secondary data
- comparison and evaluation of psychological concepts, methodologies and methods, and findings from three student practical activities
- analysis and comparison of two or more contemporary media texts
- communication of the design, analysis and findings of a student-designed and student-conducted scientific investigation through a structured scientific poster and logbook entries

S or N based on the demonstrated achievement of the outcomes specified above. School-Assessed Coursework for Unit 3 will contribute 20% to the study score. Unit 4 will contribute 30% to the study score. The end-of-year examination will contribute 50% to the study score.