

Psychology

General senior subject

General

Psychology provides opportunities for students to engage with concepts that explain behaviours and underlying cognitions.

Students examine individual development in the form of the role of the brain, cognitive development, human consciousness and sleep. They investigate the concept of intelligence; the process of diagnosis and how to classify psychological disorder and determine an effective treatment; and the contribution of emotion and motivation on individual behaviour. They examine individual thinking and how it is determined by the brain, including perception, memory, and learning. They consider the influence of others by examining theories of social psychology, interpersonal processes, attitudes and cross-cultural psychology.

Students learn and apply aspects of the knowledge and skill of the discipline (thinking, experimentation, problem-solving and research skills), understand how it works and how it may impact society.

Pathways

A course of study in Psychology can establish a basis for further education and employment in the fields of psychology, sales, human resourcing, training, social work, health, law, business, marketing and education.

Objectives

By the conclusion of the course of study, students will:

- describe and explain scientific concepts, theories, models and systems and their limitations
- apply understanding of scientific concepts, theories, models and systems within their limitations
- analyse evidence
- interpret evidence
- investigate phenomena
- evaluate processes, claims and conclusions
- communicates understandings, findings, arguments and conclusions.

Structure

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Individual development <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Psychological science A• The role of the brain• Cognitive development• Human consciousness and sleep	Individual behaviour <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Psychological science B• Intelligence• Diagnosis• Psychological disorders and treatments• Emotion and motivation	Individual thinking <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Localisation of function in the brain• Visual perception• Memory• Learning	The influence of others <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social psychology• Interpersonal processes• Attitudes• Cross-cultural psychology

Assessment

Schools devise assessments in Units 1 and 2 to suit their local context.

In Units 3 and 4 students complete four summative assessments. The results from each of the assessments are added together to provide a subject score out of 100. Students will also receive an overall subject result (A–E).

Summative assessments

Unit 3		Unit 4	
Summative internal assessment 1 (IA1): • Data test	10%	Summative internal assessment 3 (IA3): • Research investigation	20%
Summative internal assessment 2 (IA2): • Student experiment	20%		
Summative external assessment (EA): 50% • Examination			