

# Psychology

## General senior subject

Psychology provides opportunities for students to engage with concepts that explain behaviours and underlying cognitions. In Unit 1, students examine individual development in the form of the role of the brain, cognitive development, human consciousness and sleep. In Unit 2, students investigate the concept of intelligence, the process of diagnosis and how to classify psychological disorder and determine an effective treatment, and lastly, the contribution of emotion and motivation on the individual behaviour. In Unit 3, students examine individual thinking and how it is determined by the brain, including perception, memory, and learning. In Unit 4, students consider the influence of others by examining theories of social psychology, interpersonal processes, attitudes and cross-cultural psychology.

Psychology aims to develop students:

- interest in psychology and their appreciation for how this knowledge can be used to understand contemporary issues
- appreciation of the complex interactions, involving multiple parallel processes that continually influence human behaviour
- understanding that psychological knowledge has developed over time and is used in a variety of contexts, and is informed by social, cultural and ethical considerations
- ability to conduct a variety of field research and laboratory investigations involving collection and analysis of qualitative and quantitative data and interpretation of evidence
- ability to critically evaluate psychological concepts, interpretations, claims and conclusions with reference to evidence
- ability to communicate psychological understandings, findings, arguments and conclusions using appropriate representations, modes and genres.

## Pathways

A course of study in Psychology can establish a basis for further education and employment in the fields of therapeutic psychology, clinical psychology, forensic psychology, health, youth work, human resources, counselling.

## Objectives

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

- describe ideas and findings
- apply understanding
- analyse data
- interpret evidence
- evaluate conclusions, claims and processes
- investigate phenomena.

## Structure

| Unit 1                                                                                                                                                                                 | Unit 2                                                                                                                                                                                                | Unit 3                                                                                                                                                                  | Unit 4                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Individual development</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The role of the brain</li> <li>• Cognitive development</li> <li>• Consciousness, attention and sleep</li> </ul> | <b>Individual Behaviour</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intelligence</li> <li>• Diagnosis</li> <li>• Psychological disorders and treatments</li> <li>• Emotion and motivation</li> </ul> | <b>Individual Thinking</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brain function</li> <li>• Sensation and perception</li> <li>• Memory</li> <li>• Learning</li> </ul> | <b>The influence of others</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social psychology</li> <li>• Interpersonal processes</li> <li>• Attitudes</li> <li>• Cross-cultural psychology</li> </ul> |

## 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):                                          | 10% | Summative internal assessment 3 (IA3):<br>• Research investigation | 20% |
| • Data test                                                                     |     |                                                                    |     |
| Summative internal assessment 2 (IA2):                                          | 20% |                                                                    |     |
| • Student experiment                                                            |     |                                                                    |     |
| Summative external assessment (EA): 50% •<br>Examination — combination response |     |                                                                    |     |