For teaching
•In Australian and SACE International schools from January 2019 to December 2019
•In SACE International schools only, from May/June 2019 to March 2020

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Psychology

Subject Outline | Stage 2

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SUBJECT OUTLINE CHANGES

Below are the current changes to the subject outline. Teachers are encouraged to explore the changes in detail and make relevant adjustments to their teaching, learning, and assessment programs.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| From 2024 | To 2025 onwards | page |
| Stage 2 | | |
| Evidence of Learning  Six or seven assessments, including the external assessment component.  Students complete:   * at least one psychological investigation * one investigation with a focus on science as a human endeavour * at least three skills and applications tasks * one examination. | Evidence of Learning  Six or seven assessments, including the external assessment component.  Students complete:   * **one** psychological investigation * one investigation with a focus on science as a human endeavour * **three or four** skills and applications tasks * one examination. | [37](#page37), [38](#page38), [41](#page41) |
| Assessment Type 1: Investigations Folio   * Evidence of deconstruction . . . to a maximum of four sides of an A4 page. | Assessment Type 1: Investigations Folio   * Evidence of deconstruction to a maximum of four sides of an A4 page **(minimum font size 10).** * Clarification of specifications of the psychological investigation | [39](#page39) |
| Performance standards — Investigation, Analysis and Evaluation (IAE1) — A to C grade bands. | Performance standards  Inclusion of ‘justification’ to the IAE1 A to C grade bands   * A grade band — Critically deconstructs a problem and designs a logical and coherent psychological investigation **with detailed justification.** * B grade band — Logically deconstructs a problem and designs a well-considered and clear psychological investigation **with** **reasonable justification.** * C grade band — Deconstructs a problem and designs a considered and generally clear psychological investigation **with some justification.** | [45](#page45) |

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Introduction

Subject description

Psychology is a 20-credit subject at Stage 2.

Since most of the dominant paradigms in psychology in the last hundred years have been scientific ones, this subject emphasises the construction of psychology as a scientific enterprise. Psychology is based on evidence gathered as a result of planned investigations following the principles of scientific inquiry. By emphasising evidence-based procedures including observation, experimentation, and experience, this subject allows students to develop useful skills in analytical and critical thinking and in making inferences.

The skills learnt through Psychology are parallel to those learnt in other science subjects: how to be a critical consumer of information; how to identify psychological processes at work in everyday experiences; how to apply knowledge to real-world situations; how to investigate psychological issues; and how to be an effective communicator.

Psychology aims to describe and explain both the universality of human experience and individual and cultural diversity. It also addresses the ways in which behaviour can be changed. It offers a means for making society more cohesive and equitable; that is, psychology offers ways of intervening to advance the wellbeing of individuals, groups, and societies. However, every change also holds the possibility of harm. The ethics of research and intervention are therefore an integral part of psychology.

An inquiry approach to psychology enables students to define the scope of their learning by identifying investigable questions, deconstructing and designing their research using scientific approaches, using data, and analysing and critiquing their findings. The issues that arise during investigations should be informed by the application of key scientific ideas, skills, concepts, and understanding.

Capabilities

The capabilities connect student learning within and across subjects in a range of contexts.

The SACE identifies seven capabilities. They are:

* literacy
* numeracy
* information and communication technology (ICT) capability
* critical and creative thinking
* personal and social capability
* ethical understanding
* intercultural understanding.

Literacy

In this subject, students extend and apply their literacy capability by, for example:

* interpreting the work of scientists across disciplines, using psychological knowledge
* extracting psychological information presented in a variety of modes
* using a range of communication formats to express ideas logically and fluently, incorporating the terminology and conventions of psychology
* synthesising evidence-based arguments
* communicating appropriately for specific purposes and audiences.

Numeracy

In this subject, students extend and apply their numeracy capability by, for example:

* solving problems using calculation and critical thinking skills
* obtaining, collating, representing, and analysing data
* accessing and interpreting quantitative and qualitative data
* identifying and interpreting trends and relationships
* manipulating data, using appropriate scientific conventions.

Information and communication technology (ICT) capability

In this subject, students extend and apply their ICT capability by, for example:

* locating and accessing credible information
* obtaining, analysing, and representing data electronically
* using technology in psychology safely and ethically
* communicating psychological ideas, processes, and information
* understanding the impact of ICT on the development of psychology and its application in society
* evaluating the application of ICT to advance understanding and innovations in psychology.

Critical and creative thinking

In this subject, students extend and apply their critical and creative thinking capability by, for example:

* analysing and interpreting problems from different perspectives
* interpreting and evaluating data and procedures to develop logical conclusions
* analysing interpretations and claims, for validity and reliability
* devising plausible solutions and making reasonable predictions
* envisaging consequences and speculating on possible outcomes
* recognising the significance of creative thinking on the development of psychological knowledge and applications.

Personal and social capability

In this subject, students extend and apply their personal and social capability by, for example:

* understanding the importance of psychological knowledge on health and wellbeing, both personally and globally
* making decisions and taking initiative while working independently and collaboratively
* sharing and discussing ideas about psychological issues, developments, and innovations, while respecting the perspectives of others
* recognising the role of their own beliefs and attitudes in gauging the impact of psychology in society
* seeking, valuing, and acting on feedback.

Ethical understanding

In this subject, students extend and apply their ethical understanding capability by, for example:

* considering the implications of investigations on human and animal behaviour
* making ethical decisions based on an understanding of psychological principles
* using data and reporting the outcomes of investigations accurately and fairly
* acknowledging the need to plan for a sustainable future
* understanding the ethical limitations of different psychological research and interventions
* recognising the importance of their responsible participation in social, political, economic, and legal decision-making.

Intercultural understanding

In this subject, students extend and apply their intercultural understanding capability by, for example:

* understanding that the progress of psychology influences and is influenced by cultural factors
* recognising the significant contributions to psychology from diverse cultures
* developing an awareness of the potential biases of psychological practices
* respecting and engaging with different cultural views and customs and exploring their interaction with scientific research and practices
* recognising and understanding different cultural perspectives in the application of psychology.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge, cultures, and perspectives

In partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and schools and school sectors, the SACE Board of South Australia supports the development of high‑quality learning and assessment design that respects the diverse knowledge, cultures, and perspectives of Indigenous Australians.

The SACE Board encourages teachers to include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge and perspectives in the design, delivery, and assessment of teaching and learning programs by:

* providing opportunities in SACE subjects for students to learn about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures, and contemporary experiences
* recognising and respecting the significant contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to Australian society
* drawing students’ attention to the value of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge and perspectives from the past and the present
* promoting the use of culturally appropriate protocols when engaging with and learning from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities.

Learning scope and requirements

Learning requirements

The learning requirements summarise the knowledge, skills, and understanding that students are expected to develop and demonstrate through their learning in Stage 2 Psychology.

In this subject, students are expected to:

1. develop and apply knowledge and understanding of psychological concepts in diverse contexts
2. apply science inquiry skills to deconstruct a problem and design and conduct psychological investigations, using appropriate procedures and safe, ethical working practices
3. obtain, record, represent, analyse, and interpret the results of psychological investigations
4. evaluate ethical practices, procedures, and results, and analyse evidence to formulate and justify conclusions
5. explore and understand psychological science as a human endeavour
6. communicate knowledge and understanding of psychological concepts, using appropriate terms, conventions, and representations.

Content

Stage 2 Psychology is a 20‑credit subject.

The topics in Stage 2 Psychology provide the framework for developing integrated programs of learning through which students extend their knowledge, skills, and understanding of the three strands of science.

The three strands of science to be integrated throughout student learning are:

* science inquiry skills
* science as a human endeavour
* science understanding.

The five topics for Stage 2 Psychology are:

* Topic 1: Psychology of the Individual
* Topic 2: Psychological Health and Wellbeing
* Topic 3: Organisational Psychology
* Topic 4: Social Influence
* Topic 5: The Psychology of Learning.

Students study all five topics. The topics can be sequenced in any order and structured to suit individual groups of students.

The following three topics are assessed in the school assessment (investigations folio and skills and applications tasks):

* Topic 1: Psychology of the Individual
* Topic 2: Psychological Health and Wellbeing
* Topic 3: Organisational Psychology

The following two topics are assessed in the external assessment (examination) and may also be assessed in the school assessment:

* Topic 4: Social Influence
* Topic 5: The Psychology of Learning.

For Topics 1, 2, and 3, teachers select science understandings that reflect the interests and skills of the student cohort and integrate these across the learning program. Teachers may vary the depth and detail in which each of the three topics is studied.

For Topics 4 and 5, teachers cover all science understandings in preparation for the examination.

The following pages describe in more detail:

* science inquiry skills
* science as a human endeavour
* the topics for science understanding.

The descriptions of the science inquiry skills and the topics are structured in two columns: the left-hand column sets out the science inquiry skills or science understanding and the right-hand column sets out possible teaching considerations.

Together with science as a human endeavour, the science inquiry skills and science understanding form the basis of teaching, learning, and assessment in this subject.

The possible teaching considerations are suggestions for potential approaches and are neither comprehensive nor exclusive. Teachers may select from these and are encouraged to consider other approaches according to local needs and interests.

Within the topic descriptions, the following symbols are used in the possible teaching considerations to show how a strand of science can be integrated:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| three wheels cog symbol | indicates a possible teaching and learning strategy for science understanding |
| question mark symbol | indicates a possible science inquiry activity |
| human body symbol | indicates a possible focus on science as a human endeavour. |

 Science Inquiry Skills

In Psychology, inquiry is an integral part of the learning and understanding of concepts. Activities could involve a range of both individual and collaborative inquiry, during which students extend their skills through engagement with the possible teaching considerations described in the table that follows.

Students develop a better understanding of psychological concepts through research, design, and application. Relevant data are obtained, and students represent and analyse these data. They apply their knowledge and understanding to present and justify conclusions appropriate to the initial question or hypothesis and may propose further research. Students may use the process of deconstructing a problem and designing an investigation to enhance their understanding.

Science inquiry skills are fundamental to students investigating the social, ethical, and environmental impacts and influences of the development of scientific understanding and the applications, possibilities, and limitations of science. These skills enable students to critically consider the evidence they obtain so that they can present and justify conclusions.

| Science Inquiry Skills | Possible teaching considerations |
| --- | --- |
| Psychology uses a biopsychosocial approach to frame an understanding of behaviour — that is, behaviour is analysed and described in terms of biological, psychological, and sociocultural factors.   * Explain how biological, psychological, and social factors could determine the cause and expression of certain psychological phenomena. * Explain how biological, psychological, and sociocultural factors could influence solutions to problematic psychological phenomena. | Demonstrate analytical skills by, for example,   * describing and explaining psychological phenomena from different perspectives; for example, describe the phenomena of memory loss or learning from a biological, psychological, and social perspective * demonstrating awareness of multifactorial causes of some psychological phenomena; for example, show awareness of the impacts of biopsychosocial factors on the phenomena of learning * describing how the biopsychosocial approach could be used to develop improved cultural understanding. |

| Science Inquiry Skills | Possible teaching considerations |
| --- | --- |
| Investigations in Psychology can be experimental, observational, or qualitative.  In experimental investigations, the investigator examines behaviour by manipulating the independent variable.  In observational investigations, the investigator collects data in a natural setting by means of behavioural observations or self-report methods.  Qualitative investigations may use focus groups and the Delphi technique to generate data.   * Identify an investigation as experimental, observational, or qualitative. * Discuss advantages and disadvantages of each type of investigation.   Many investigations involve the collaborative efforts of a team.   * Negotiate the role of each member with the other members of a team. | Demonstrate analytical skills by, for example:   * selecting appropriate investigation designs for different purposes * identifying the independent and dependent variables in experimental investigations * identifying the possible relationships between variables in observational investigations * comparing focus groups and the Delphi technique as a means of generating qualitative data. |
| Scientific methods enable systematic investigation to obtain measurable evidence.   * Deconstruct a problem to determine and justify the most appropriate method for investigation. * Design investigations, including: * a hypothesis or inquiry question * types of variables * dependent * independent * constant * extraneous * the method to be followed * justification of the method * the type and amount of data to be collected * identification of ethical considerations and how these may be addressed * identification of sociocultural considerations and how these may be addressed. * Using information from a range of sources, critically evaluate and appropriately acknowledge those sources. | Demonstrate inquiry skills by, for example:   * designing investigations that require investigable questions and plausible solutions (without implementation) * investigating: * correlational studies * cross-sectional studies * repeated measures studies (longitudinal or sequential) * critiquing proposed investigations * using the conclusion of one investigation to propose subsequent investigations * improving an existing method. |
| The researcher interprets raw data that may be objective or subjective, quantitative or qualitative.   * Identify some advantages and disadvantages of using these types of data.   Results of investigations are presented in a well-organised way to allow them to be readily interpreted.   * Present results of investigations in appropriate ways, such as: * construction of appropriately labelled tables * drawing of appropriately labelled graphs. | Demonstrate inquiry skills by, for example:   * constructing tables to tabulate data, including column and row labels with units * identifying the appropriate representations to graph different data sets * identifying data from different sources (e.g. self-reports, physiological measures, behavioural counts) as objective or subjective, and as quantitative or qualitative * using content analysis to organise qualitative data into themes. |
| Analysis of the results of investigations allows them to be interpreted in a meaningful way.   * Analyse data, including: * identification and discussion of trends, patterns, and correlations * the appropriate use of descriptive statistics (means, medians, standard deviations) * calculations of means and medians for quantitative data sets. | Demonstrate analytical skills by, for example:   * analysing and interpreting data trends, patterns, and correlations, including those in big data * determining means and medians for quantitative data sets * determining relationships between variables * determining statistical significance and effect size when comparing differences between groups or relationships between variables * interpreting standard deviations. |
| Critical evaluation of procedures and data can determine the meaningfulness of the results.   * Identify sources of uncertainty, such as confounding and extraneous variables * Evaluate the reliability and validity of data. * Discuss how the following could affect the data obtained in an investigation: * sample size * representativeness of sample. | Demonstrate inquiry skills by, for example:   * investigating within and between groups measures * distinguishing between internal and external validity * minimising the effect of extraneous variables by appropriate test design * making specific and meaningful recommendations for subsequent investigations. |
| Conclusions can be formed that relate to the hypothesis or inquiry question.   * Select and use evidence and scientific understanding to make and justify conclusions. * Explain the limitations of conclusions. * Explain why the results of some investigations may not lead to definitive conclusions. | Demonstrate inquiry skills by, for example:   * evaluating procedures and then commenting on the limitations of possible conclusions * using data sets to discuss the limitations of the data in relation to the range of possible conclusions that could be made * assessing sample biases * discussing the relevance of the findings beyond a particular study. |
| Ethical practice is an integral aspect of psychology.   * Discuss how the following have or have not been demonstrated in research or treatment: * respect for the dignity and wellbeing of individuals * informing individuals of the nature and purpose of the research/treatment and of any physical or psychological effects that may be expected * obtaining voluntary consent from individuals or from their parents or legal guardians * protecting any personal information acquired * using data only for the purpose for which consent has been obtained * respecting the privacy of personal information that is disclosed * respecting the right of individuals not to participate in or to withdraw from research/treatment at any time without explanation and without reprisal * Informing individuals of the results and conclusions of the research. * Work ethically with others, taking into consideration their physical, cultural, and emotional safety. | Demonstrate inquiry skills by, for example:   * identifying specific ethical issues that arise in designing an investigation and how they might be addressed * identifying specific ethical issues that may have been breached in the conduct of an investigation * demonstrating an awareness of potential bias (gender, cultural, or other) in research questions and methods * providing examples of data collection that may cause physical discomfort * describing participants’ rights and the researcher’s responsibilities * describing the researcher’s responsibility to ensure that research designs show consideration to the protection of the rights of children in psychological research * understanding the rights of different cultural groups to feel safe and included, and to have a voice in society * considering the difficulties associated with obtaining data from people within different sociocultural backgrounds, people with different languages, and the very young and the very old. |
| Effective scientific communication is clear, concise, and credible.   * Communicate to specific audiences and for specific purposes using: * appropriate language * correct terminology * conventions, including appropriate acknowledgement of sources of information * cultural deftness. | Demonstrate inquiry skills by, for example:   * describing the conventions used in scientific articles * demonstrating skills in appropriate referencing and footnoting * distinguishing between reference lists and bibliographies * practising scientific communication in a range of written, oral, and multimodal formats (e.g. presenting a PowerPoint or a podcast, or writing a blog) * showing consideration that some cultural groups may communicate in different ways, such as storytelling, art, dance and music; for example, communication through storytelling or yarning in Aboriginal cultures. |

human body symbol Science as a Human Endeavour

The science as a human endeavour strand highlights science as a way of knowing and doing, and explores the purpose, use, and influence of science in society.

By exploring science as a human endeavour, students develop and apply their understanding of the complex ways in which science interacts with society, and investigate the dynamic nature of psychology. They explore how psychologists develop new understanding and insights and produce innovative solutions to everyday and complex problems and challenges in local, national, and global contexts. In this way, students are encouraged to think scientifically and make connections between the work of others and their own learning. This enables them to explore their own solutions to current and future problems and challenges.

Students understand that the development of psychological concepts, models, and theories is a dynamic process that involves analysis of evidence and sometimes produces ambiguity and uncertainty. They consider how and why psychological concepts, models, and theories are continually reviewed and reassessed as new evidence is obtained, and as emerging technologies enable new avenues of investigation. They understand that society is continually changing, and that scientific advancement involves a diverse range of individual scientists and teams of scientists working within an increasingly global community of practice.

Students explore how scientific progress and discoveries are influenced by a wide range of sociocultural, economic, and ethical factors. They investigate ways in which the application of science may provide great benefits to individuals, the community, and the environment, but may also pose risks and have unexpected outcomes. They understand how decision-making about socio-scientific issues often involves consideration of multiple lines of evidence and a range of needs and values. As critical thinkers, they appreciate science as an ever-evolving body of knowledge that frequently informs public debate but is not always able to provide definitive answers.

The key concepts of science as a human endeavour underpin the contexts, approaches, and activities in this subject, and must be integrated into all teaching and learning programs.

The key concepts of science as a human endeavour, with elaborations that are neither comprehensive nor exclusive, in the study of Psychology are:

Communication and Collaboration

* Science is a global enterprise that relies on clear communication, international conventions, and review and verification of results.
* Collaboration between psychologists and stakeholders advances research and understanding. It requires shared evidence from many sources in a multidisciplinary approach.

Development and Application

* Developments in research and technology lead to advances in psychological understanding.
* The application of psychological understanding can enable scientists to develop solutions, design actions, and evaluate and respond to economic, sociocultural, and environmental factors.

Influence

* Psychological knowledge and its application are both influenced by, and influence economic, sociocultural, religious, ideological, political, and environmental perspectives in a local, national, and global context.
* The use of psychological knowledge may have positive, negative, or unexpected consequences that require monitoring, assessment, and evaluation. The use of psychological knowledge must take into account risks and ethical considerations.

Topic 1: Psychology of the Individual

Although every individual is distinct, we perceive some people to be more alike than others in the ways in which they engage with their social and physical worlds. These patterns of similarities and differences are the province of personality. Personality refers to the complex network of emotions, cognitive processes, and behaviours that provide coherence and direction to a person’s life. The personality we have affects our goals, how we feel, how we act, and how we see ourselves and other people.

The study of personality includes the different concepts of personality, personality assessment, and cultural and individual differences in personality.

| Science Understanding | Possible teaching considerations |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Personality is a socially and culturally constructed concept.  There are different concepts of personality, including psychodynamic, humanistic, and trait.   * Describe the psychodynamic approach to personality. * Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of Freud’s psychodynamic approach. * Describe the humanistic approach to personality. * Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of Maslow’s humanistic approach. * Describe the trait approach to personality. * Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of a trait approach. | People often say and do things online that they wouldn’t ordinarily say or do face to face. This is known as the ‘disinhibition effect’.   * Explore: * the causes of the disinhibition effect * the positive and negative effects of online disinhibition. * Explain the relationship between the disinhibition effect and personality differences. * View studies by John Suler and Melanie Nguyen, Sydney University:   <https://www.liebertpub.com/doi/abs/10.1089/1094931041291295>  <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/51750501_Comparing_Online_and_Offline_Self-Disclosure_A_Systematic_Review> | three cogs symbol |
| Compare Sigmund Freud’s contributions to the psychodynamic approach with the contributions of one or more of Carl Jung, Alfred Adler, and Erik Erikson.  Describe how Karen Horney’s theory of mental health differed from Freud’s, and suggest why she and Freud held such different views about women.  Freud proposed three elements of personality — the id, the ego, and the superego. Discuss the roles of these elements in the disinhibition effect. |  |
| Compare and contrast Carl Rogers’ person‑centred theory with Abraham Maslow’s self‑actualisation theory.  According to Rogers, the ‘ideal self’ is the person you would like to be, while the ‘real self’ is the person you actually are. Is the disinhibition effect more likely to reveal the real self? Discuss.  According to Jung, we assume a persona in public, a social face we present to the world. How could an individual’s online persona differ from that in the real world? | three cogs symbol |
| Evaluate Hans Eysenck’s trait theory and the ‘Big Five’ personality factors.  The five-factor model (FFM), also known as the Big Five model, has been used to examine similarities and differences in traits between cultures. Discuss:   * the similarities in trait expression that exist in different cultures * the differences in trait expression that seem to exist in different cultures * why the FFM is considered to be deficient in some cross-cultural research. |  |
| Various forms of personality assessment are used today. They include standardised self-report inventories, behavioural observations, and clinical interviews.   * Describe some ways in which personality assessments are used. * Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of using personality assessments for different purposes. * Critique the uses of standardised self-report inventories, behavioural observations, and clinical interviews. * Explain the difference between validity and reliability when analysing the effectiveness of a personality assessment. * Describe two ethical issues which must be taken into account when giving someone a personality assessment. | Try the Ulla Zang online personality test, then discuss the following questions:   * How well did the description fit your personality? * Are there any problems with the description? * Can a choice of picture reveal personality? * Why would this test have less validity than a standardised self-report inventory? * What do you think is needed for a good personality test?   Explore some of the following standardised self-report inventories:   * Myers–Briggs Type Indicator * Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI-2) * The Sixteen Personality Factor (16PF) Questionnaire * The Neuroticism Extraversion Openness Personality Inventory (NEO-PI-R). | three cogs symbol |
|  | Investigate the appropriateness of the HEXACO model (honesty-humility (H), emotionality (E), extraversion (X), agreeableness (A), conscientiousness (C), and openness to experience (O)) in cross-cultural research into personality. |  |
| The ways of measuring personality are linked to particular beliefs about its structure.   * Describe how the psychodynamic, humanistic, and trait proponents of personality would differ in their selection and use of personality assessments. | Discuss the similarities and the differences of a range of personality assessments. | three cogs symbol |
| Psychological principles concerning personality are evident in everyday experiences.   * Describe how an understanding of the similarities and differences between people could promote personal growth in an individual. * Describe how assertiveness training could be used to: * promote personal growth * improve social relationships.   Personality disorders can be conceptualised as exaggerations of personality traits to dysfunctional levels.   * Suggest how a biopsychosocial model could be used to understand the development of a personality disorder.   There is often a stigma associated with personality disorders, such as borderline personality disorder.   * Explore the concept of ‘stigma’ and how it gets constructed and applied. * Discuss: * the stereotypical ways in which people with mental health issues are viewed * the role of media in promoting these stereotypes * the effects of this stigma on the individual * ways of reducing or removing this stigma. | Describe:   * how personality could affect study preferences of students (e.g. preference for visual material or verbal material) within a class * how schools could cater to these differences. | three cogs symbol |
| Personality is influenced by society and culture, but films often tend to present personalities who are clear and distinct types that never change.   * Choose one literary, media, or film character, and describe their personality in terms of two psychological conceptions of personality.   It is estimated that about 10% of the world’s population suffers from some form of personality disorder. For one personality disorder, describe:   * the disorder * the diagnostic process, and possible problems with diagnosing * the possible treatments * the prognosis. |  |
| Various investigation designs could be used to study personality.   * Describe how a researcher could conduct: * an experimental design to investigate personality; that is, one in which an independent variable is manipulated and the changes in the dependent variable are observed * an observational design to investigate personality; that is, interpreting observations of participants using descriptive language or quantitative measures. * Discuss some of the ethical issues associated with research in the area of personality. | There is evidence showing that people who prefer certain styles of music tend to have specific personality traits.   * Design an experiment to test this. |  |
| How could you demonstrate that there is a correlation between personality characteristics and driving behaviour?  Consider how personality and environment work together to influence behaviour, personal control, and internal/external locus of control.  Compare:   * the advantages of a focus group with those of the Delphi technique * the ethical considerations of a focus group with those of the Delphi technique. | three cogs symbol |

Topic 2: Psychological Health and Wellbeing

People with healthy minds are not just free of mental disorders, they also have high levels of social and emotional wellbeing. This topic examines the positive and negative factors that affect psychological health, how people can be helped to cope with mental health issues and stress, and what they can do to increase their emotional and social wellbeing.

| Science Understanding | Possible teaching considerations |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Mental health may be affected by a number of factors.   * Explain what is meant by the term ‘mental health’. * Discuss how mental health could be affected positively and negatively by: * biological factors * sociocultural factors * psychological factors. | Design an experimental investigation that would test the effect on mental health of exercise, sleep, diet, alcohol, or other drugs.  Discuss some ethical issues associated with experimental research in the area of mental health.  Consider positive sociocultural factors such as good working environments, education, friendships, and leisure activities.  Consider negative sociocultural factors such as poor working environments (e.g. noise, heavy workload, harassment), poverty, unemployment, lack of education, cultural prejudice (e.g. in TV series and films), and social isolation.   * Design a non-experimental investigation to determine the relationship between different factors and mental health. * Suggest how employment conditions, education, and the media (e.g. TV series and films) could improve mental health. * Give some examples of positive and negative media influences on the depiction of mental health. * Discuss how ethical issues differ between experimental and non-experimental research. * Explore some of the psychological factors that can influence mental health. |  |
| Mental health is influenced by culture.   * Explain the statement: ‘Definitions of mental disorders are culturally constructed.’ * Discuss the influence of culture on mental health and how this has changed over time, such as what the *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders* (DSM) has considered to be a mental disorder (e.g. homosexuality) in various editions. * Describe the impact racism has on mental health for cultural groups such as Aboriginals and refugees.   The relationship between clinician and patient could be affected by cultural differences. DSM‑5 places emphasis on cultural sensitivity.   * Discuss some of the problems that could occur when clinician and patient do not come from the same cultural background. | Discuss what kinds of changes in society can contribute to increased mental health issues for the general population and for those of different ethnic backgrounds.  For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, connection with country is critical for mental health. Discuss:   * the role of country in Indigenous Australian mental health * how the mental health of Indigenous Australians has changed over time * the impact of racism on mental health * the reasons for this change * the supportive structures that could be put in place to address this change.   For more information about social and emotional wellbeing for Aboriginal people, see the website of the Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association (AIPA):  <http://www.indigenouspsychology.com.au/links> | three cogs symbol |
| Social media use has become increasingly influential.   * Evaluate the positive and negative influences of social media on mental health. * Describe how behaviour modification could be used to improve a person’s social media use. * Discuss the ethics of using behaviour modification for this purpose. * Discuss whether excessive involvement in social media should be considered an addiction. | Explore the following:   * At what point does social media use become problematic (e.g. amount of use, impacts on self or others)? * How can social media use be beneficial to individuals and society? * How can social media be used to improve mental health? For example, how do organisations such as Lifeline and Beyond Blue use social media and what is needed to make its use effective (e.g. staff training)? * Addictions can be chemical or behavioural. Distinguish between the two types of addictions: * How are they similar? * How are they different? * How should an addiction be defined? * Current research: *Cyberpsychology, Behavior and Social Networking* journal. |  |
| Sleep is important for mental health.   * Discuss the following theories of sleep needs: * repair and restoration theory * evolutionary theory * information consolidation theory * clean-up theory. * Discuss some of the personal and societal factors that can contribute to sleep deprivation. * Describe some personal and organisational strategies that could be used to increase sleep duration and improve sleep quality. | Investigate how one or more of the following are affected by sleep deprivation: personal relationships, traffic accidents, workplace accidents.  Explore:   * the influence of shift work on health * the influence of jet lag on task performance.   Explore how much sleep is needed at different stages of life. |  |
| Stressors have a major influence on both mental and physical health.   * Discuss what is meant by the term ‘stress’. * Discuss whether the ‘fight or flight response’ has a positive or negative effect on health. * Use Selye’s general adaptation syndrome model to explain the long-term effects of stress on health. * Explain how problem-focused and emotion-focused coping strategies attempt to address stress. | ‘Burnout’ refers to the emotional depletion and loss of motivation that result from exposure to chronic stressors.   * Investigate the types of occupations showing the greatest frequency of burnout. * Determine whether the stressors are short term or long term. * Research the methods used to measure burnout. * Investigate some stress-management strategies, such as: * time management * assertiveness training * relaxation or meditation * exercise. |  |
| Anxiety disorders and depression are the most prevalent types of mental health problems among adolescents.   * Discuss how cognitive-behavioural therapy (CBT) could be used to treat anxiety and depression. * Discuss systematic desensitisation in the treatment of phobias. * Discuss some of the ethical issues associated with the treatment of anxiety disorders, depression, and phobias. | George Engel suggested that a biopsychosocial model be adopted when patients present for treatment of anxiety or depression.   * Investigate the basic principles of the biopsychosocial model of treatment and its advantages. * Compare the biopsychosocial model and CBT as treatments for anxiety or depression. |  |
| Research the effectiveness of electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) as a treatment for depression. |  |
| ‘Resilience’ refers to a person’s mental ability to recover quickly from setbacks.   * Describe some of the protective factors that a resilient person could have. * Differentiate between internal and external factors of resilience, giving examples of each. * Describe how a person could learn to become more resilient. * Describe some resilience programs (e.g. resilience training as a psychological intervention for dealing with stress that can lead to mental illness). | Research has shown that many people show a remarkable capacity for resilience.   * Discuss how the following could affect resilience: * holding positive views of oneself and one’s abilities * the capacity to make realistic plans and stick to them * having an internal locus of control * being a good communicator * managing emotions effectively. * Explore Barbara Fredrickson’s broaden-and-build theory of positive emotions and the links to resilience. * Explore resilience programs that exist globally and/or locally (e.g. the Penn Resilience Program) and research their effectiveness. |  |

Topic 3: Organisational Psychology

Organisational psychology involves the evidence-based study of organisations and particularly the work performance and job satisfaction of their members. It considers factors that affect work performance and job satisfaction at three levels: the individual, the group or team, and the organisation. Organisational psychologists use an understanding of these factors to enhance the performance and job satisfaction of the members of the organisation and enhance the performance of the organisation itself.

| Science Understanding | Possible teaching considerations |  |
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| Organisational psychology uses an evidence-based approach to understand the factors that affect an organisation and its members. It uses that knowledge to facilitate the organisation’s performance and the work performance and job satisfaction of its members.   * Define organisational psychology. * Describe the role of organisational psychology for organisations.   There are different types of organisations including government, commercial, and not-for-profit. Organisations also differ in the type of work that they do, e.g. mining, farming, manufacturing, service industries, education.   * List different types of organisations. * Classify different organisations based on the work they do. | A suitable reference would be Psychology applied to work, Muchinsky and Howes (2019).  Discuss how the knowledge involved in organisational psychology differs from that of other types of organisational knowledge.  Investigate how organisations are classified in terms of the kind of work that they do.   * List the type of organisation in which students’ parent(s) or caregiver(s) work and classify the organisations in terms of the type of work that is done. These types could be ordered from the most to the least common type of organisation.   Discuss what kinds of key issues there might be at an individual, group, and organisational level. |  |
| There are different types of measures that can be used to assess performance.   * Explore some of the different measures that can be used to assess the performance of individuals, groups, and organisations: * individuals, e.g. supervisor ratings, quantity and quality of work * groups, e.g. sales, client feedback * organisations, e.g. profit, staff turnover. * Describe the advantages and disadvantages of each measure. | Consider the organisational performance measures that organisational psychologists can use (e.g. productivity, quality standards, staff satisfaction, accidents, absenteeism, turnover).   * How are these measures used? * What are the advantages and disadvantages of each measure? | three cogs symbol |
| Finding the right job is important for an individual. Assistance with finding the right job is called vocational guidance.  An important concept in vocational guidance is vocational interests. There are theories of vocational interests, such as that of Holland, which has an associated measure called the Self-Directed Search to assess an individual’s vocational interests and the types of jobs that might be suited to that person’s interests.   * Explore theories of vocational interests, such as Holland’s theory. * Describe how Holland’s Self-Directed Search measure can be used to provide vocational guidance. | Explore the following:   * Discuss how most people find a job and what criteria they use for selecting a job. * How many different types of jobs do most people know about? * List the types of jobs that students think they would be interested in. * Examine the lists of jobs in the Self-Directed Search manual (or a similar inventory of vocational interests) as a sample of the types of jobs available. * How accurate are students in guessing their three highest work interests on the Self-Directed Search before completing it (or a similar inventory of vocational interests)? |  |
| Finding the right person for a job is important for the performance of an organisation. The process of finding a person for a job is called personnel selection.   * Discuss some critical characteristics that might influence finding the right person for a job, including a person’s work qualifications, work experience, personality, interests, motivation, age, gender, ethnicity, and language. * Discuss how biased language in job descriptions might preclude finding the right person for a job.   A number of basic assessments are commonly used in personnel selection, including resumes, references, psychological tests (e.g. intelligence/aptitudes, personality), and interviews, all of which have different levels of reliability and validity.   * Explore assessments used in personnel selection. * Discuss the validity and reliability of these assessments and measures.   Internet testing and online interviewing are increasingly being used.   * Explore the advantages and disadvantages of internet testing and online interviewing. * Discuss ethical issues associated with their use.   Work performance can be considered in terms of different measures. | Discuss which characteristics of a person would be most important for an employer to consider when selecting the right person for a job and how these might have changed over time and how they might change in the future.  Consider as an example of a personality measure the Big Five factors of personality and their facets.   * Have students estimate their scores on a brief version of the Big Five factors and check their accuracy after completing it. * Discuss the implications of personality for different kinds of jobs.   Find some examples of implicit bias in job descriptions.  Explore:   * What students think would be the most valid types of assessment for personnel selection and compare them to results from research. * What factors affect the validity of interviewing as an assessment (e.g. the halo effect) and how interviewing can be improved. * How people can best prepare for an interview.   Discuss issues related to the use of internet testing and online interviewing. |  |
|  | Explore the different ways of measuring work performance such as quantity, quality, work behaviours (e.g. interpersonal and safety), turnover, and exit interviews. |  |
| Motivation of individuals is a key factor affecting organisational performance and there are a number of motivation theories, each with different approaches.   * Compare and contrast two motivational theories, such as: * Maslow’s and Alderfer’s hierarchies of needs * Herzberg’s two-factor theory * Adam’s equity theory * Vroom’s expectancy theory * Locke’s goal-setting theory. * Explore Hackman and Oldham’s job design theory as a measure of motivation. | Discuss what motivates people to work at tasks like schoolwork and jobs, and what kinds of factors affect motivation.  Consider some major theories of work motivation and the extent to which there is a need for more than one such theory.  Have students fill out a measure of Hackman and Oldham’s job design theory and consider the factors that have influenced their motivation scores, and how they could be increased. |  |

| Science Understanding | Possible teaching considerations |  |
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| People now tend to work more in teams than individually, due to changes in working conditions since the Industrial Revolution and particularly due to the rise in service industries in the second half of the 20th century.   * Explore the factors which have contributed to modern teamwork, workplaces, and working conditions. * Explore factors that are important for developing and optimising teamwork, and the ability of a team to optimise performance and achieve common goals.   Working effectively in teams depends on personal characteristics including personality and skills.   * Describe the measures that can be used to assess team-related characteristics, e.g. Myers–Briggs Type Indicators or Belbin’s team roles.   Several factors have been found to affect team performance.   * Describe how some of the following factors or others could have a positive or negative impact on team performance: * the forms of communication * conflict resolution * bullying * groupthink * norms of interaction * reciprocal engagement. * Explain how information processing theory and measures of conflict-management styles can be used to understand and facilitate team communication. | Discuss the types of jobs in which people must work together in teams.  Consider personal characteristics relevant to team effectiveness, such as personality and Belbin’s team roles.   * Have students estimate their profile on the Myers–Briggs personality measure or Belbin’s measure of team roles and check the accuracy of their estimates after completing the test. * Have students consider the implications of their personal characteristics for working in teams and the need for a variety of team members with complementary characteristics.   Consider factors important for facilitating communication and conflict management in teams.   * Have students complete a measure of Thomas Kidman’s conflict-management styles to assess individual preferences.   Research factors that are important for developing and optimising team performance, and their implications for team training.  Consider factors affecting the performance of virtual and interdisciplinary research teams. |  |
| * Have students work in teams (face to face or virtual) to research an issue in organisational psychology (e.g. personnel selection or executive coaching) for presentation to the class, plus an analysis of what the team did well and how it could have been improved (e.g. in terms of Tuckman and Jensen’s stages of team development). * Explore relatively recent developments, such as virtual teams using the internet for convenience, and interdisciplinary research teams to advance areas of science such as medicine. In each case, particular team- related issues have been identified as affecting their performance. |  |
| Good leadership is essential for an organisation and its workers to perform well.   * Compare two different theories of leadership in terms of assumed critical factors such as personality traits or environmental circumstances, e.g. trait theory, and contingency theories like those of Hersey and Blanchard. | Discuss what makes a good leader, using examples from history and politics.  Investigate theories of leadership and the extent to which good leaders are born or can be taught to be a good leader. |  |
| Consider the leadership-style theories of Hersey and Blanchard.  Research and summarise the key points from a book on leadership, such as *Legacy: what the All Blacks can teach us about the business of life* by James Kerr (2013), or *Leaders: myth and reality* by Stanley McChrystal, Jeff Eggers, and Jason Mangone (2018). |  |
| At the organisation level a key concept is that of organisational culture and a related concept is that of organisational climate.   * Analyse Schein’s concept of organisational culture.   Organisational cultures can have subcultures (e.g. based on department, job type, age, gender, ethnicity) that affect the performance of the organisation and that of individuals and their job satisfaction.   * Consider different types of subcultures in organisations and their implications. | Discuss what is meant by organisational culture in terms of Schein’s definition of culture.  Investigate how organisational climate has been defined and whether it is the same as, or different from, organisational culture.  Consider different types of subcultures in organisations and their implications, e.g. in different year levels in schools.  Research the relationship between organisational culture and organisational performance with respect to the work of Peters and Waterman. | three cogs symbol |
| Organisational culture and climate have been linked to organisational performance and measures have been developed to identify desired improvements in culture or climate.   * Describe the difference between organisational culture and climate. * Explain how organisational culture and climate can affect organisational performance, as well as inform better performance. | Have students complete a Kilmann-Saxton Culture-Gap Survey of the organisational culture of the school.   * Discuss the extent to which students agree or differ, and the implications for improving the school’s culture.   Research the Nordic Occupational Safety Climate Questionnaire as an example of a work-safety climate measure. |  |
| Organisational psychology as a profession attempts to use organisational theories to understand how certain factors affect the performance of organisations, teams, and individuals, and the job satisfaction of individuals.   * Research the variety of organisation-related and work-related jobs that organisational psychologists do and how these jobs have changed and are likely to change over time. | Consider some examples of research showing how individual work performance and job satisfaction, and organisational performance, such as in safety, can be improved. |  |

Topic 4: Social Influence

Humans are social beings. The behaviour of individuals and groups influences, and is influenced by, others. Social influence is an everyday phenomenon, but it can have dramatic effects. It can be reflected in courageous acts of defiance against unjust authority, or in thousands of people following the edicts of their leaders, even when the edicts violate the followers’ moral values. Human social interactions reveal many paradoxes about what it is to be human. Some interactions are characterised by violence and aggression; others are characterised by selfless assistance to others.

The study of social influence includes the impact of the presence or absence of other people on behaviour; obedience and conformity; attitude formation and attitude change; prejudice and persuasion; and social media. The understanding of the positive and negative effects of social media is evolving rapidly as new forms of social media are developed and researched.

| Science Understanding | Possible teaching considerations |  |
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| Obedience is a form of social influence where an individual responds to a direct order, usually from an authority figure. Various factors influence obedience, including proximity to the authority figure, prestige of the authority figure, and deindividuation.   * Describe three different factors that influence obedience. | Discuss whether the findings from experiments on conformity and obedience help us to understand atrocities and other actions. For example:   * The assimilation policy (1937–73). The assimilation policy was an Australian policy of absorbing Aboriginal people into white society through the process of removing children from their families (i.e. the Stolen Generations) and other actions that contributed to the destruction of Aboriginal society. * The Stolen Generations in Australia (1900s to 1970s). * The Northern Territory National Emergency Response (the Intervention) which began in 2007 under the Howard Government. * The massacre at My Lai (1968). * The Holocaust in Nazi Germany (1933–45). * The Rwanda genocide (1994). * Human rights violations against detainees in the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq, revealed in 2004. * The systematic campaign of rape, murder, and arson against the Rohingya people (particularly in 2017). |  |
|  | Watch *The Stanford prison experiment*, a 2015 docudrama based on Zimbardo’s prison experiment.  Discuss the following:   * When do the powerful abuse their power? * When do the powerless give in to oppression? When do they resist? * What is the role of the group in these processes? | three cogs symbol |
| Experimental investigations have been used to study obedience. The experimenter was able to manipulate an independent variable and observe the changes in the dependent variable.   * Explain how an experimental investigation is different from other investigations. * Describe some advantages and disadvantages of the experimental design. | Explain why the investigations by both Milgram and Zimbardo were experiments.  How were these investigations:   * similar? * different? | three cogs symbol |
| Milgram’s experiments on obedience provided important insight into human behaviour, as did Zimbardo’s prison experiment. | ‘For although the act condemns the doer, the end may justify him …’ (Machiavelli, *The Discourses*: I, 9)  Discuss this statement with reference to Milgram’s and Zimbardo’s experiments. | three cogs symbol |
| * Explain why both experiments were heavily criticised for ethical reasons. |
| Conformity is one form of social influence where individuals yield to group pressures. It is affected by a number of different factors.   * Explain how normative social influence, informational social influence, and individual characteristics affect conformity. * Three main types of conformity are generally recognised: * compliance * internalisation * identification. | Investigate deindividuation at:  <https://www.units.miamioh.edu/psybersite/fans/deindividuation.shtml>  Watch *Utopia* (a film by John Pilger, 2013), which describes the social influence of the assimilation policy and the Intervention on the Aboriginal peoples of Australia.  Describe how the assimilation policy and the Intervention and associated oppression, obedience, social influence, and conformity affected the Aboriginal peoples and communities of Australia. | three cogs symbol |

| Science Understanding | Possible teaching considerations |  |
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| Observational designs have sometimes been used in the study of social influence, where the investigator collected data by observation of selected participants.   * Explain how observational designs differ from experimental designs. * Describe some advantages and disadvantages of observational design.   Minority communities can be subject to ethnocentric bias when the investigator collected data by observation of selected participants.   * Describe the social, cultural, and ethical impact on Australian Aboriginal people. | Are there cultural differences in conformity? Explore the differences in conformity between individualistic and collectivist cultures at:  <https://www.verywellmind.com/what-are-individualistic-cultures-2795273>  Read *Talking to my country*, Stan Grant (2016). |  |
| Describe how:   * experimental designs * observational designs   could be used in studying conformity. | three cogs symbol |
| An attitude refers to a set of emotions, beliefs, and behaviours towards a particular object, person, issue, or event. Persuasion is the art of convincing others to change their attitudes or behaviours.  Various factors influence attitude formation and/or attitude change.   * Describe how the source, message, audience, peripheral and central processing routes, and direct and indirect experience affect the persuasion process.   The detection of, and resistance to, persuasion tactics can be facilitated by an understanding of persuasion strategies.   * Explain how the following strategies aim to persuade: * the norm of reciprocity * door-in-the-face * foot-in-the-door. | Discuss the impact of persuasion, using articles such as:  <https://www.workingvoices.com/martin-luther-king-jr-communication-power/> (on Martin Luther King)  Discuss whether it is ethical for psychologists to help advertisers use persuasion to target children as consumers.  Are there cultural differences in persuasion attempts? |  |
| Explore the differences in effective persuasion strategies in individualistic cultures versus collectivist cultures at:  <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S002210318471016X> and  <http://ceur-ws.org/Vol-1582/16Orji.pdf>  Compare advertisements on television, on social media, and in magazines that target 18‑ to 35-year-olds. | three cogs symbol |
| The relationship between attitudes and behaviour is bidirectional.   * Discuss how strength, accessibility, and specificity of an attitude may influence behaviour.   Behaviour also influences attitude.   * Explain why, in Zimbardo’s prison experiment, as the guards assumed their roles and began mistreating their prisoners, their attitude towards their prisoners changed.   The attitude–behaviour link is not always consistent.   * Discuss how situational pressures and self-monitoring may influence behaviour. * Discuss the consequences of inconsistency between attitudes and behaviour. | Explore Richard LaPiere’s study (1934) into prejudice against Asians in the United States.  Discuss the willingness of:   * bystanders to challenge bullies in the schoolyard * smokers to give up smoking * people to donate to particular charities.   Discuss the inability to predict recycling behaviour from a person’s general attitude towards environmental issues (Oskamp, 1991).  Discuss potential consequences of governments mandating certain behaviour; for example, the public greeting ‘Heil Hitler’ in Germany, or the ritual of singing the national anthem at public events. | three cogs symbol |
| Consider how the compliance–conformity distinction can be linked to the bidirectional relationship between attitudes and behaviour.  Compare and contrast the work of Leary (2007) on impression management (self‑presentation), Bem’s work (1972) on self‑perception, and the implications of Festinger’s (1957) theory of cognitive dissonance. |  |
| There are different ways of measuring attitudes.   * Describe the advantages and disadvantages of using the following tests to measure attitudes: * self-reports * behavioural counts * Implicit Association Test.   Prejudice is an attitude, and is a social issue.   * Explain how prejudice, discrimination, and stereotyping are linked.   There are various reasons why people are prejudiced.   * Explain how unintentional biases (including confirmation bias), exposure, and learning could lead to prejudice.   The effects of prejudice are many.   * Describe the effects of social stigma, internalisation of others’ evaluations, and stereotype threat.   There are various strategies for changing attitudes and reducing prejudice.  Explicit forms of discrimination are now illegal and socially censored.   * Describe how reluctance to help, tokenism, and reverse discrimination are different from explicit forms of discrimination. | Do one of the demonstration tests at this link:  <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/australia/takeatest.html>  Students respond to the following questions:   * Which test did you take? * What were the results? * What surprised you? * Explain why you think you scored this way.   Explore other unobtrusive measures of attitudes, including physiological indices, behavioural measures, the ‘bogus pipeline’, and distance (how close, psychologically or physically, people are willing to get to one another).  How can confronting past acts of inhumane behaviour help us reduce prejudice today? Examples that could be discussed:   * In 19th-century Europe, Saartjie Baartman, a South African woman, was paraded before the public in London and Paris as an ‘exotic exhibit’. * Ota Benga (1883–1916), an African man, was housed in the monkey house at the Bronx Zoo (New York).   Is bias a factor in police shootings? Read:  <https://www.npr.org/2017/06/13/532724743/police-shootings-how-a-culture-of-racism-can-infect-us-all>  Refer to *Pygmalion in the classroom: teacher expectation and pupils’ intellectual development* (1968), and investigate Rosenthal and Jacobsen’s experiment on the self-fulfilling prophecy. | three cogs symbol |
| Discuss how the Ku Klux Klan’s lynchings of African Americans and the Abu Ghraib prisoner-abuse practices are examples of dehumanisation. |  |
| Use the following link to discover another form of prejudice:  <https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2013/04/22/177455764/What-Does-Modern-Prejudice-Look-Like> | three cogs symbol |
| Social influence operates everywhere, and it is evident on social media. Self-presentation (impression management) involves manipulating others’ perceptions of you.   * Describe how self-presentation would be managed differently on social media than in face-to-face contact. * Explain how the images posted on social media demonstrate and validate self-concept. * Explain why high self-monitors are likely to engage in social media more often than low self-monitors. * Explain the importance of schemata, primacy, recency, and information that is distinctive in impression management.   Explain why the use of social media could have positive or negative effects on mental health.  There are ethical concerns with the use of social media. | Explain how self-presentation may become an important aspect in a person’s life.  Explain why self-presentation might be of greater or lesser importance for different people.  Review research of social media on young minds, e.g. refer to:  <https://www.npr.org/2016/08/09/489284038/researchers-study-effects-of-social-media-on-young-minds> | three cogs symbol |
| Given the activation in the reward centres of the brain on seeing popular pictures on social media, explore the possibility of a person becoming addicted to social media use. |  |
| Discuss whether it is ethical for psychologists to use a public forum to give advice. | three cogs symbol |
| Using social media, people are able to manage their self-presentation in ways that cannot be used in face-to-face contacts at home, school, or work. This raises a number of ethical questions:   * What are the normative guidelines directing the social media user’s behaviour? * Are the behaviours of the social media users the same as the users’ offline behaviours? * Do the online behaviours display any notable differences from the behaviours of people not using social media? * What are the dangers of only networking with people with similar interests, attitudes, or personalities?   Explore research in this area by members of the Cyberpsychology Research group at the University of Sydney (including Brad Ridout, Bridie O’Dea, Andrew Campbell, and Neil Coulson). |  |
| There are ethical issues associated with research in the area of social influence.   * Describe how some data-collection techniques could cause physical or emotional discomfort. * Describe how wellbeing, consent, and privacy rights may be jeopardised in investigations in the area of social influence. * Describe how deception in investigations can be unethical.   There are ethical issues associated with applications of research findings in the area of social influence.   * Discuss the use of fear as a strategy to motivate behavioural change. * Discuss the use of knowledge about components of attitudes and elements of persuasion by advertisers, political campaigners, employers, and corporations to change the behaviour of individuals and groups. | Explore the use of the ‘bogus pipeline’ (or bogus lie detector) and deception as a means of convincing participants that a researcher is able to measure their attitudes. |  |
| Discuss the article ‘Advertising to children: is it ethical?’ at:  <http://mrpascaspasta.weebly.com/uploads/8/5/7/2/85723562/advertising_to_children_-_is_it_ethical_.pdf> | three cogs symbol |
| Explain how research into social influence has been used in both positive and negative ways.  Explore the misuse of social influence research; for example, extracting false confessions, indoctrination, and ‘thought reform’. |  |

Topic 5: The Psychology of Learning

Learning is central to human survival, but the process is difficult to define because it takes so many different forms. In general, any relatively enduring change in either our potential to behave in particular ways, or our knowledge, that results from experience is known as learning. The process of learning is essential for us to survive in our environment, plan for the future, and acquire the social and cultural rules of our society.

The study of learning can be traced back to the origins of psychology as a branch of philosophy. The principles of learning have relevance in so many facets of our lives, including the areas of drug dependency and coping with chemotherapy and unemployment.

Universal ways of learning include classical conditioning, operant conditioning, and learning through observation or instruction. There are personal differences in the way we learn.

| Science Understanding | Possible teaching considerations |  |
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| Classical conditioning is a learning process that occurs when two stimuli are repeatedly paired (an association). A response, which is at first elicited by a natural stimulus, is eventually elicited by what had previously been a neutral stimulus.   * Describe Pavlov’s experiment on salivation in dogs. * Describe the relationship between unconditioned stimuli, conditioned stimuli, unconditioned responses, and conditioned responses in classical conditioning. * Explain the difference between acquisition and performance in classical conditioning. * Explain the importance of contiguity and contingency in classical conditioning. * Explain stimulus generalisation and stimulus discrimination. * Describe how the process of extinction would occur in classical conditioning. | Can classical conditioning make you sick? Can it make you healthy?  Investigate:   * anticipatory nausea and vomiting (ANV) in cancer patients * Ader and Cohen’s immune suppression study. | three cogs symbol |
| Investigate examples of classical conditioning in real life:   * lions in Africa being conditioned to dislike the taste of beef * therapy to combat anxieties and phobias * drug addiction * advertising.   (*Note that advertising is also discussed in Topic 4: Social Influence*.)  Discuss ways in which supermarkets, shops, or malls use principles of classical conditioning to influence the behaviour of shoppers. For example, how might the following influence behaviour?   * music in the background * spruiking * placement of products on shelves or by the checkout * flashing red lights for specials * tasting stands. | three cogs symbol |
| Not all associations in classical conditioning are equal.   * Discuss the role of biological preparedness in the development of taste aversions and phobias.   Principles of classical conditioning are used in psychological interventions.   * Describe how systematic desensitisation of phobias is used. | Use spontaneous recovery to demonstrate that extinction is not the same thing as unlearning.  Ivan Pavlov (1902) showed that classical conditioning applied to animals. Watson and Rayner (1920) showed that it also applied to humans.  Investigate these two sets of experiments and discuss their importance. | three cogs symbol |
| Discuss the ethical considerations in the use of aversion therapy. |  |
| Operant conditioning is a learning process in which the strength of a behaviour is modified by the consequences following the behaviour.   * Explain how punishment is different from reinforcement. * Describe the differences between positive reinforcement and negative reinforcement. * Describe the differences between aversive punishment and response cost in operant conditioning. * Explain why, in attempts to change behaviour, reinforcement is favoured over punishment. * Explain the importance of contiguity and contingency in operant conditioning. * Use examples to describe fixed and variable schedules of reinforcement, and ratio and interval schedules of reinforcement. * Describe how schedules of reinforcement affect learning, extinction, and performance. * Explain how operant conditioning could be used to shape a particular behaviour. * Use operant conditioning to explain the placebo effect. | Behaviourism refers to a psychological approach emphasising scientific methods of investigation. The approach is only concerned with observable stimulus–response behaviours, and states that all behaviours are learned through interaction with the environment.  Explore the work of BF Skinner, a proponent of the behaviourist approach. |  |
| Investigate the psychological principles concerning operant conditioning in everyday experiences and events, such as various customer loyalty programs.  Discuss how immediate versus delayed consequences play a role in:   * keeping to an exercise regime * maintaining a drug or smoking habit * speeding fines. | three cogs symbol |
| Discuss examples of schedules of reinforcement in everyday life, such as:   * piecework in a factory * gambling * social media * ‘watching the clock’ during a class * fishing.   Explore the techniques used by gambling industries to separate people from their money. | three cogs symbol |
| Not all associations in operant conditioning are equal.   * Discuss the role of biological preparedness in the training of animals.   Principles of operant conditioning are used in psychological interventions.   * Describe how behaviour-modification techniques are used. | Find out how animal trainers use operant conditioning techniques.  Explore the following questions:   * How could societies be organised to maximise prosocial and minimise antisocial behaviour in citizens? * Are prisons a useful social investment?   How has operant conditioning been used to enhance human welfare? |  |
| We also learn through observation.   * Explain how learning through observation is different from operant conditioning. * Describe the factors that influence observational learning: * attention * retention * reproduction * motivation. * Describe how the characteristics of the role model influence learning through observation. * Describe the evidence for mirror cells in the brain being involved in observational learning.   Albert Bandura and others studied aggression in children (the Bobo doll studies) by observing their behaviour.   * Explain the advantage of using behavioural counts in research. | Bandura views observational learning as a cognitive process, involving a number of steps. Find out what these are.  Evaluate Bandura’s theory for strengths and weaknesses. | three cogs symbol |
| Explore the difference between explicit and implicit observational learning.  Investigate the effects of viewing violence in the media.  Investigate how mirror cells change when we observe others (Mukamel et al., 2010). |  |
| There are personal differences in the way we learn.   * Describe how the characteristics of the learner influence their learning. * Describe how cognitive-behavioural therapy could be tailored to meet different people’s needs. | Explore the differences between surface, strategic, and deep learning, and the consequences of these differences.  Investigate the following questions:   * Are there gender differences in learning? * Are there differences in learning as we age? * Are there generational differences in learning? * Do individuals differ in their learning styles? * What is the difference between learning and training? |  |
| Guidelines for psychological research and practice are published by the Psychology Board of Australia. The purpose of these guidelines is to protect research participants, the reputation of psychology, and psychologists themselves.   * Discuss how the following learning-related experiments contravened current ethical guidelines: * Watson and Rayner’s Little Albert study in classical conditioning * Bandura, Ross, and Ross’s Bobo doll study of modelling and aggression * Seligman’s learned helplessness experiment. | Explore the following:   * Is it ever acceptable to have participants learn maladaptive responses in order to show how maladaptive responses are acquired and maintained? * Can the use of aversive stimuli be justified in therapeutic settings? * What ethical guidelines need to be in place for psychologists asked to change a child’s behaviour that parents or others do not like? * Is it ever acceptable to provide institutionalised people with liquefied food, instead of their normal food, if they do not maintain daily hygiene practices? | three cogs symbol |

Assessment scope and requirements

All Stage 2 subjects have a school assessment component and an external assessment component.

Evidence of learning

The following assessment types enable students to demonstrate their learning in Stage 2 Psychology.

School assessment (70%)

* Assessment Type 1: Investigations Folio (30%)
* Assessment Type 2: Skills and Applications Tasks (40%)

External assessment (30%)

* Assessment Type 3: Examination (30%).

Students provide evidence of their learning through six or seven assessments, including the external assessment component. Students complete:

* one psychological investigation
* one investigation with a focus on science as a human endeavour
* three or four skills and applications tasks
* one examination.

Assessment design criteria

The assessment design criteria are based on the learning requirements and are used by:

* teachers to clarify for the student what they need to learn
* teachers and assessors to design opportunities for students to provide evidence of their learning at the highest possible level of achievement.

The assessment design criteria consist of specific features that:

* students should demonstrate in their learning
* teachers and assessors look for as evidence that students have met the learning requirements.

For this subject the assessment design criteria are:

* investigation, analysis, and evaluation
* knowledge and application.

The specific features of these criteria are described below.

The set of assessments, as a whole, must give students opportunities to demonstrate each of the specific features by the completion of study of the subject.

Investigation, Analysis, and Evaluation

The specific features are as follows:

IAE1 Deconstruction of a problem and design of a psychological investigation.

IAE2 Obtaining, recording, and representation of data.

IAE3 Analysis and interpretation of data and other evidence to formulate and justify conclusions.

IAE4 Evaluation of procedures and their effect on data.

Knowledge and Application

The specific features are as follows:

KA1 Demonstration of knowledge and understanding of psychological concepts.

KA2 Application of psychological concepts in diverse contexts.

KA3 Exploration and understanding of the interaction between science and society.

KA4 Communication of knowledge and understanding of psychological concepts and information, using appropriate terms, conventions, and representations.

School assessment

Assessment Type 1: Investigations Folio (30%)

Students undertake:

* one psychological investigation, which must include deconstruction of a problem and design of a psychological investigation
* one investigation with a focus on science as a human endeavour.

Psychological Investigation

Students investigate psychological concepts and relationships through analysis of data. Data can be obtained via an approved investigation or analysis of an approved data set.

For analysis of data obtained via an approved investigation, data can be collected using one of the following:

* a SACE Board research program for Psychology
* an investigation provided by the teacher
* an investigation approved by the teacher.

For analysis of a data set, suitable sources of data include:

* <https://data.gov.au>
* <https://www.lsay.edu.au/data>
* <https://www.fya.org.au/our-research>.

To ensure the wellbeing of both the student researchers and their participants, students are not permitted to conduct the investigation without prior approval from their teacher and/or their schools.

The investigation and sourced data sets should be directly related to one or more of the topics being studied in Stage 2 Psychology. All data should be appropriately referenced.

Through the investigation, students demonstrate their science inquiry skills by:

* deconstructing a problem to determine the most appropriate method for investigation
* formulating investigable questions and hypotheses
* selecting and using appropriate equipment and techniques (where required)
* identifying variables
* collecting, representing, analysing, and interpreting data
* evaluating procedures and considering their impact on results
* drawing conclusions, with justification
* communicating knowledge and understanding of concepts
* discussion of relevant ethical considerations.

An investigation:

* enables students to investigate a question or hypothesis linked to one of the topics being studied in Stage 2 Psychology
* may provide the opportunity for a range of both individual and collaborative activities, such as collecting data.

The investigation should enable students to individually deconstruct a problem, for which the outcome is uncertain, and design their own method and justify their plan of action.

Evidence should outline the deconstruction process, the method designed as most appropriate, and a justification of the plan of action. This should be presented on a maximum of four sides of an A4 page (minimum font size 10). Suggested formats for this evidence include flow charts, concept maps, tables, or notes. This evidence must be submitted with the practical report.

Students may choose to design and/or write their report on either a quantitative or qualitative study.

For the investigation, students present an individual report.

The report should include:

* introduction with relevant psychological concepts, and either a hypothesis and variables, or an investigable question (if producing a quantitative report), or introduction with relevant psychological concepts and an investigable question, with focus questions to be explored (if producing a qualitative report)
* materials/apparatus
* the method or process that was implemented
* identification and management of safety and/or ethical risks
* results, including table(s) and/or graph(s)
* analysis of results and statistical measures, including identifying trends and linking results to psychological concepts (if producing a quantitative report), or analysis of results, including frequency tables, graphs, and linking results to psychological concepts (if producing a qualitative report)
* evaluation of sample procedures and their effect on data, and identifying strengths, limitations, and sources of uncertainty, validity, reliability, improvements and ethics
* a conclusion, with justification.

Only the following sections of the report are included in the word count:

* introduction
* analysis of results
* evaluation of procedures
* conclusion and justification.

Suggested formats for presentation of a psychological investigation report include:

* a written report
* an oral presentation
* a multimodal product.

The report should be a maximum of 1500 words if written, or a maximum of 9 minutes for an oral presentation, or the equivalent in multimodal form.

Science as a Human Endeavour (SHE) Investigation

Students individually investigate contemporary examples of how science interacts with society. They focus on one or more of the key concepts of science as a human endeavor (SHE). The context of the investigation should be related to the science understandings being studied in Stage 2 Psychology.

Students access information from different sources, select relevant information, analyse their findings, and explain the connection to science as a human endeavor.

Students should:

* identify the key concepts
* explain the context through relevant science understanding
* expand upon science understanding through the context
* explore the interactivity of the science understanding with one or more of the key concepts of SHE in Psychology; communication and collaboration, development and application, and influence.

Possible starting points for the investigation could include, for example:

* a media release
* government policy
* trends in big data in psychology
* public debate
* peer-reviewed research and publication
* a discovery in a field of psychological research.

Based on their investigation, students prepare a scientific text, which must include the use of scientific terminology. The scientific text could take the form of, for example:

* a report
* an article
* a blog
* an infographic
* a multimodal presentation.

The scientific text should be a maximum of 1500 words if written, or a maximum of 9 minutes for an oral presentation, or the equivalent in multimodal form.

For this assessment type, students provide evidence of their learning in relation to the following assessment design criteria:

* investigation, analysis, and evaluation
* knowledge and application.

Assessment Type 2: Skills and Applications Tasks (40%)

Students complete three or four skills and applications tasks, including at least one skills and applications task from each of the three non-examined topics:

* Topic 1: Psychology of the Individual
* Topic 2: Psychological Health and Wellbeing
* Topic 3: Organisational Psychology.

At least one skills and applications task should be under the direct supervision of the teacher. The supervised setting should be appropriate to the task.

Skills and applications tasks allow students to provide evidence of their learning in tasks that may:

* be applied, analytical, and/or interpretative
* pose problems in new and familiar contexts
* involve individual or collaborative assessments, depending on task design.

A skills and applications task may involve, for example:

* solving problems
* designing an investigation to test a hypothesis or investigable question
* considering different scenarios in which to apply knowledge and understanding
* graphing, tabulating, and/or analysing psychological information
* evaluating procedures and identifying their limitations
* formulating and justifying conclusions
* representing psychological information diagrammatically
* using psychological terms, conventions, and notations.

As a set, skills and applications tasks should be designed to enable students to apply their science inquiry skills, demonstrate knowledge and understanding of key psychological concepts and learning, and explain connections with science as a human endeavour. Problems and scenarios should be set in a relevant context, which may be practical, social, or environmental.

Skills and applications tasks may include, for example:

* modelling or representing concepts
* an academic poster
* developing simulations
* practical and/or graphical skills
* a multimodal product
* an oral presentation
* participation in a debate
* an extended response
* responses to short-answer questions
* a structured interview
* an excursion report
* a response to science in the media.

Where a skills and applications task is undertaken as a supervised assessment, it should be a maximum of 90 minutes of class time, excluding reading time.

Where a skills and applications task is not a supervised assessment, the scientific text should be a maximum of 1200 words if written, or a maximum of 8 minutes for an oral presentation, or the equivalent in multimodal form.

For this assessment type, students provide evidence of their learning in relation to the following assessment design criteria:

* investigation, analysis, and evaluation
* knowledge and application.

External assessment

Assessment Type 3: Examination (30%)

Students undertake a 130-minute online examination.

Students use their understanding of psychology to answer questions that assess their:

* Stage 2 Psychology science inquiry skills
* science understanding of Topic 4: Social Influence
* science understanding of Topic 5: The Psychology of Learning.

Questions:

* will be of different types, including, but not limited to, short-answer and extended-response questions
* may require students to show an understanding of science as a human endeavour
* may require students to apply their science understanding from both topics.

The following specific features of the assessment design criteria for this subject may be assessed in the external examination:

* investigation, analysis, and evaluation — IAE1, IAE3, and IAE4
* knowledge and application — KA1, KA2, KA3, and KA4.

Performance standards

The performance standards describe five levels of achievement, A to E.

Each level of achievement describes the knowledge, skills, and understanding that teachers and assessors refer to in deciding how well students have demonstrated their learning on the basis of the evidence provided.

During the teaching and learning program the teacher gives students feedback on their learning, with reference to the performance standards.

At the student’s completion of study of each school assessment type, the teacher makes a decision about the quality of the student’s learning by:

* referring to the performance standards
* assigning a grade between A and E for the assessment type.

The student’s school assessment and external assessment are combined for a final result, which is reported as a grade between A and E.

Performance Standards for Stage 2 Psychology

| - | Investigation, Analysis, and Evaluation | Knowledge and Application |
| --- | --- | --- |
| A | Critically deconstructs a problem and designs a logical and coherent psychological investigation with detailed justification.  Accurately and thoroughly obtains, records, and represents data.  Systematically analyses and interprets data and evidence to formulate logical conclusions with detailed justification.  Critically and logically evaluates procedures and their effect on data. | Demonstrates deep and broad knowledge and understanding of a range of psychological concepts.  Applies psychological concepts highly effectively in diverse contexts.  Critically explores and understands in depth the interaction between science and society.  Communicates knowledge and understanding of psychology coherently, with highly effective use of appropriate terms, conventions, and representations. |
| B | Logically deconstructs a problem and designs a well-considered and clear psychological investigation with reasonable justification.  Logically obtains, records, and represents data.  Logically analyses and interprets data and evidence to formulate suitable conclusions with reasonable justification.  Logically evaluates procedures and their effect on data. | Demonstrates some depth and breadth of knowledge and understanding of a range of psychological concepts.  Applies psychological concepts mostly effectively in diverse contexts.  Logically explores and understands in some depth the interaction between science and society.  Communicates knowledge and understanding of psychology mostly coherently, with effective use of appropriate terms, conventions, and representations. |
| C | Deconstructs a problem and designs a considered and generally clear psychological investigation with some justification.  Obtains, records, and represents data with some errors.  Undertakes some analysis and interpretation of data and evidence to formulate generally appropriate conclusions with some justification.  Evaluates procedures and some of their effect on data. | Demonstrates knowledge and understanding of a general range of psychological concepts.  Applies psychological concepts generally effectively in diverse contexts.  Explores and understands aspects of the interaction between science and society.  Communicates knowledge and understanding of psychology generally effectively, using some appropriate terms, conventions, and representations. |
| D | Prepares a basic deconstruction of a problem and an outline of a psychological investigation.  Obtains, records, and represents data with occasional accuracy and effectiveness.  Describes data and undertakes some basic interpretation to formulate a basic conclusion.  Attempts to evaluate procedures or suggest an effect on data. | Demonstrates some basic knowledge and partial understanding of psychological concepts.  Applies some psychological concepts.  Partially explores and recognises aspects of the interaction between science and society.  Communicates basic psychological information, using some appropriate terms, conventions, and/or representations. |
| E | Attempts a simple deconstruction of a problem and a procedure for a psychological investigation.  Attempts to record and represent some data.  Attempts to describe results and/or interpret data to formulate a basic conclusion.  Acknowledges that procedures affect data. | Demonstrates limited recognition and awareness of psychological concepts.  Attempts to apply psychological concepts.  Attempts to explore and identify an aspect of the interaction between science and society.  Attempts to communicate information about psychology. |

Assessment integrity

OFFICIAL

The SACE Assuring Assessment Integrity Policy outlines the principles and processes that teachers and assessors follow to assure the integrity of student assessments. This policy is available on the SACE website (www.sace.sa.edu.au) as part of the SACE Policy Framework.

The SACE Board uses a range of quality assurance processes so that the grades awarded for student achievement, in both the school assessment and the external assessment, are applied consistently and fairly against the performance standards for a subject and are comparable across all schools.

Information and guidelines on quality assurance in assessment at Stage 2 are available on the SACE website (www.sace.sa.edu.au).

Support materials

Subject-specific advice

Online support materials are provided for each subject and updated regularly on the SACE website (www.sace.sa.edu.au). Examples of support materials are sample learning and assessment plans, annotated assessment tasks, annotated student responses, and recommended resource materials.

Advice on ethical study and research

Advice for students and teachers on ethical study and research practices is available in the guidelines on the ethical conduct of research in the SACE, which are on the SACE website (www.sace.sa.edu.au).