

## **Psychology**

This study enables students to:

- apply psychological models, theories and concepts to describe, explain and analyse observations and ideas related to human thoughts, emotions and behaviour.
- examine the ways that a biopsychosocial approach can be applied to organise, analyse and extend knowledge in psychology.

### **UNIT 1 How are behaviour and mental processes shaped?**

In this unit students investigate the structure and functioning of the human brain and the role it plays in the overall functioning of the human nervous system. Students explore brain plasticity and the influence that brain damage may have on a person's psychological functioning. They consider the complex nature of psychological development, including situations where psychological development may not occur as expected.

#### **KEY SKILLS REQUIRED**

Question and predict; plan and conduct experiments; record and process data; analyze and evaluate relationships in data; write a scientific report; demonstrate and understand ethical guidelines.

#### **Assessed tasks**

Independent Research Project, Evaluation Task, Topic Test and quizzes.  
End of semester examination

### **UNIT 2 How do external factors influence behavior and mental processes?**

In this unit students investigate how perception of stimuli enables a person to interact with the world around them and how their perception of stimuli can be distorted. They evaluate the role social cognition plays in a person's attitudes, perception of themselves and relationships with others. Students explore a variety of factors and contexts that can influence the behaviour of an individual and groups.

#### **KEY SKILLS REQUIRED**

As above for Unit 1.

#### **Assessed tasks**

Independent Research Investigation, Evaluation Task. Topic Tests and quizzes  
End of semester Examination

### **UNIT 3 How does experience affect behavior and mental processes?**

In this unit students examine both macro-level and micro-level functioning of the nervous system to explain how the human nervous system enables a person to interact with the world around them. They explore how stress may affect a person's psychological functioning and consider the causes and management of stress. Students investigate how mechanisms of memory and learning lead to the acquisition of knowledge, the development of new capacities and changed behaviours. They consider the limitations and fallibility of memory and how memory can be improved.

#### **KEY SKILLS REQUIRED**

As above for Unit 1.

#### **Assessed tasks**

Independent Research Investigation, Evaluation Task. Topic Tests and quizzes  
End of year examination.

### **UNIT 4 How is well being maintained?**

In this unit students examine the nature of consciousness and how changes in levels of consciousness can affect mental processes and behaviour. They consider the role of sleep and the impact that sleep disturbances may have on a person's functioning. Students explore the concept of a mental health continuum and apply a biopsychosocial approach, as a scientific model, to analyse mental health and disorder. They use specific phobia to illustrate how the development and management of a mental disorder can be considered as an interaction between biological, psychological and social factors.

#### **KEY SKILLS REQUIRED**

As above for Unit 1.

#### **Assessed tasks**

Independent Research Investigation, Evaluation Task. Topic Tests and quizzes  
End of year examination.

