

## **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