

Psychology Units 1 & 2

Unit 1: How are behaviour and mental processes shaped?

This unit delves into the intricate aspects of psychological development, exploring scenarios where development may deviate from typical patterns. It integrates classical and modern insights from various cultures, including non-Western perspectives such as those of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Students investigate how these perspectives contribute to psychological models and theories concerning the evolution of thoughts, emotions, and behaviors. The unit also examines the structure and functions of the human brain, including its plasticity and the effects of brain damage on psychological functioning. Additionally, students engage in a research project focused on contemporary psychological studies, analyzing methodology, data, and findings to sharpen critical and creative thinking skills acquired from previous study areas.

Area of Study 1: What influences psychological development?

- Discuss the complexity of psychological development over the lifespan.
- Evaluate ways of understanding and representing psychological development.

Area of Study 2: How are mental processes and behaviour influenced by the brain?

- Analyse the role of the brain in mental processes and behaviour.
- Evaluate how brain plasticity and brain injury can change biopsychosocial functioning.

Area of Study 3: How does contemporary psychology conduct and validate psychological research?

- Identify, analyse and evaluate the evidence available to answer a research question relating to contemporary psychology.

Unit 2: How do internal and external factors influence behaviour and mental processes

This unit focuses on the evaluation of social cognition's impact on attitudes, self-perception, and interpersonal relationships. Students analyze various factors and contexts influencing individual and group behavior, recognizing cultural diversity and considering the experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia. They explore classical and contemporary research to understand human perception and behavior, examining how perception of stimuli shapes interactions with the environment and can be distorted. Additionally, students conduct scientific investigations, generating primary data related to internal and external factors influencing behavior and mental processes, drawing on knowledge and skills from previous study areas.

Area of Study 1: How are people influenced to behave in particular ways?

- Analyse how social cognition influences individuals to behave in specific ways.
- Evaluate factors that influence individual and group behaviour.

Area of Study 2: What influences a person's perception of the world?

- Explain the roles of attention and perception.
- Compare gustatory and visual perception
- Analyse factors that may lead to perceptual distortions.

Area of Study 3: How do scientific investigations develop understanding of influences on perception and behaviour?

- Adapt or design and then conduct a scientific investigation related to internal and external influences on perception and/or behaviour and draw an evidence-based conclusion from generated primary data.