



SAMPLE COURSE OUTLINE

PSYCHOLOGY
ATAR YEAR 11

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Sample course outline

Psychology – ATAR Year 11

Unit 1

Week	Key teaching points
1	<p>Introduction to psychology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • course structure • school assessment policy • planning and conducting psychological research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ research terminology ▪ ethics in psychology
2–4	<p>Self</p> <p>Biological influences/bases of behaviour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • functions of the major parts of the brain • main features of the four lobes of the cerebral cortex • structure of the neuron • methods for investigating brain function • factors that affect behaviour, emotion and thought <p>Task 1: Response – Topic test – Biological influences/bases of behaviour</p>
5–6	<p>Research methods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • planning and conducting psychological research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ steps in scientific method ▪ differences between sample and population ▪ experimental research methods • processing and evaluating psychological research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ methods of displaying quantitative data ▪ interpretation of the following forms of data: mode, mean, median, range <p>Task 2: Investigation – Investigating the relationship between handedness and hemispheric dominance (Other suitable practice investigation: Comparing selective and divided attention)</p>
7–10	<p>Self</p> <p>Cognition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • theories of intelligence • intelligence testing • the role of sensation and perception in cognition • physiological responses indicating different states of consciousness <p>Task 3: Project – Consultancy brief (Cognition – Intelligence)</p>
11–12	<p>Others</p> <p>Relational influences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • types of relationships • determinants of liking • relationship development in adolescence <p>Task 4: Response – In-class essay</p>
13–15	<p>Others</p> <p>Communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • non-verbal communication • effective communication • role of language in initiating, maintaining and regulating interpersonal relationships – Robinson’s social skills <p>Task 5: Response – Topic test – Communication</p>
16	Task 6: Examination

Unit 2

Week	Key teaching points
17–19	<p>Self: Developmental psychology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • aspects of human development across the life span • nature/nurture debate • role of play in physical, cognitive, emotional and social readiness and skill development <p>Task 7: Response – Topic test – Developmental psychology</p>
20–22	<p>Self: Personality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • definition of personality • historical perspectives • approaches to measuring personality <p>Task 8: Project – Presentation – Personality</p>
23–25	<p>Others: Social psychology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • definition of a group and its purposes • individuals and groups • behaviour within groups • social categorisation <p>Task 9: Response – Topic test – Social psychology</p>
26–28	<p>Research methods – revise research methods from Unit 1 with the addition of the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • planning and conducting psychological research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ non-experimental (descriptive) research methods ▪ qualitative methods of data collection ▪ quantitative methods of data collection • processing and evaluating psychological research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ role of probability ▪ use of correlation to establish association between variables ▪ sources of error in data and ways of reducing them ▪ evidence-based conclusions related to the hypothesis <p>Task 10: Investigation – Examining group influences on behaviour (Other suitable practice investigations: The influence of the group on joke telling; The influence of birth order on personality; Examining the relationship between personality and participation in sport)</p>
29–31	<p>Others: Culture and values</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attitude formation – Tripartite model • tools for measuring attitudes • racism • cultural influences on attitudes <p>Task 11: Response – In-class essay (Prejudice – Remember the Titans)</p>
32	<p>Task 12: Examination</p>