



SAMPLE COURSE OUTLINE

PSYCHOLOGY
ATAR YEAR 12

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Sample course outline

Psychology – ATAR Year 12

Unit 3 and Unit 4

Semester 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 research
2–4	<p>Self: Biological influences/bases of behaviour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • structure and function of the nervous system • process of neural transmission • roles of the four lobes of the cerebral cortex • factors that affect behaviour, emotion and thought, including heredity, hormones, psychoactive drugs <p>Task 1: Topic test – Biological influences/bases of behaviour</p>
5–8	<p>Self: Cognition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • theories and processes of learning • techniques for modifying behaviour • psychological concepts and processes associated with memory and their relationship to behaviour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ multi-store model of memory – Atkinson and Shiffrin, 1968 ▪ sensory register • psychological concepts and processes associated with memory and their relationship to behaviour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ short-term memory (working memory) ▪ long-term memory ▪ recall, recognition, re-learning ▪ forgetting: retrieval failure, interference, motivated forgetting, decay <p>Task 2: Training manual for the family pet – Cognition: learning and behaviour modification</p>
9–11	<p>Research methods: planning and conducting psychological research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • practical issues associated with planning and conducting research • difference between sample and population data • features of experimental research methods <p>Research methods: processing and evaluating psychological research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • methods of displaying quantitative data – tables, graphs and diagrams • data interpretation • the concept of statistical significance <p>Task 3: Examining short-term memory through the serial position effect – an ethically approved investigation based on syllabus content related to cognition</p> <p>Other suitable investigations that have been ethically approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • do mnemonic devices improve memory? • factors impacting the recall of long-term memories
12–13	<p>Others: Relational influences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • types of solutions to resolve conflict • techniques for resolving conflict • socialisation processes observed within families <p>Task 4: Topic test – Relational influences</p>

Week	Key teaching points
14	<p>Others: Communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> communication styles features of persuasive communication features and limitations of theories of language development <p>Task 5: In-class essay – Communication</p>
15	Task 6: Semester 1 Examination

Semester 2

Week	Key teaching points
1–4	<p>Self: Developmental psychology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> stages and characteristics of developmental theories features of Bandura’s Social Learning Theory <p>Task 7: Topic test – Developmental psychology</p>
5–7	<p>Self: Personality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> features and limitations of contemporary personality theories <p>Task 8: Presentation – Personality</p>
8–9	<p>Revise research methods from Unit 3</p> <p>Research methods: planning and conducting psychological research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> features of non-experimental (descriptive) research methods qualitative methods of data collection objective quantitative measures in research – physiological measures subjective quantitative measures in research – checklists and rating scales, such as Likert scales <p>Research methods: processing and evaluating psychological research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> use of correlation to establish association between variables sources of error in data and ways of reducing these evaluation of and ways of improving research <p>Task 9: Examining the relationship between personality and participation in sport – an ethically approved investigation based on syllabus content related to personality</p> <p>Other suitable investigations that have been ethically approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the influence of birth order on personality measuring and examining cognitive and behavioural aspects of assertiveness
10–12	<p>Others: Social psychology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the influence of groups on behaviour theories of social psychology <p>Task 10: Topic test – Social psychology</p>
13–14	<p>Others: Culture and values</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sense of community, as defined by McMillan and Chavis impact of significant events on individuals and communities <p>Task 11: In-class essay – Culture and values</p>
15	Task 12: Semester 2 Examination