**Sample Course Outline**

Psychology

General Year 12

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# Sample course outline

# Psychology – General Year 12

## Unit 3 and Unit 4

#### Semester 1

| **Week** | **Key teaching points** |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | **Introduction to psychology*** course structure
* school assessment policy

**Research methods*** ethics in psychology research
* participants’ rights – confidentiality, voluntary participation, withdrawal rights
* informed consent procedures
* deception in research
 |
| 2–5 | **Cognition*** definition of
* cognition
* sensation
* perception
* attention span
* memory
* multi-store model of memory – Atkinson and Shiffrin (1968)
* sensory register – duration, capacity
* working memory (short-term memory) – duration, capacity
* long-term memory – duration, capacity, procedural memory, declarative memory – semantic and episodic
* strategies for enhancing retrieval of information and improving memory
	+ state- and context-dependent cues
	+ mnemonics
	+ chunking
	+ repetition
* states of consciousness
* selective attention
* divided attention
* daydreaming
* meditation
* hypnosis
* sleep
* physiological indicators of consciousness
* brainwaves
* heart rate
* galvanic skin response

**Task 1:** Topic test – Cognition |

| **Week** | **Key teaching points** |
| --- | --- |
| 6–7 | **Research methods*** terminology
* experimental, non-experimental
* scientific, non-scientific
* sample
* population
* experimental research method
* independent and dependent variables
* operational hypotheses
* controlled and uncontrolled variables
* experimental and control groups
* displaying quantitative data – tables, graphs, diagrams
* data interpretation
* mode
* mean
* median
* range

**Task 2:** Investigation report – Do mnemonic devices improve memory? [Other options – Factors impacting the recall of long-term memories **or** Comparing selective and divided attention] |
| 8–9 | **Personality*** personality theories
* trait theories – Eysenck, Costa and McCrae
* humanistic theories – Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs, Rogers
* behaviourist theories – Pavlov, Watson, Thorndike, Skinner
* social learning theory – Bandura
* the relationship between personality, motivation and human performance
* advantages, disadvantages and issues related to personality testing by organisations
 |
| 10–11 | **Relational influences*** friendship formation/determinants of liking
* proximity
* similarity
* reciprocity
* types of relationships
* pro-social
* anti-social
* types of solutions to resolve conflict
* imposed
* distributive
* integrative
* techniques for resolving conflict
* mediation
* negotiation
* counselling

**Task 4:** Topic test – Personality/Relational influences |
| 12–15 | **Communication*** communication styles
* social background – Bernstein
* gender differences – Tannen
* Robinson’s social skills
* persuasive communication
* source of the message
* nature of the communication
* characteristics of the audience

**Research methods*** non-experimental (descriptive) research methods
* case studies, surveys, correlational studies
* qualitative methods for data collection
* objective quantitative measures in research
* physiological measures
* subjective quantitative measures in research
* checklists
* rating scales – Likert scale

**Task 4:** Externally set task – Week 14**Task 5:** Effectiveness of a healthy lifestyle advertisement – Communication |

#### Semester 2

| **Week** | **Key teaching points** |
| --- | --- |
| 1–3 | **Biological influences/bases of behaviour*** functions of the four lobes of the cerebral cortex
* frontal lobe – abstract thinking, problem solving, reasoning, decision making
* parietal lobe – primary sensory cortex
* occipital lobe – primary visual cortex
* temporal lobe – primary auditory cortex
* methods of studying the brain
* electroencephalography (EEG), computed axial tomography (CAT) scan, functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI)
* case studies – Phineas Gage, Henry Molaison (HM) and London taxi drivers
* animal studies – Lashley, Sperry

**Task 6:** Topic test – Biological influences/Bases of behaviour |
| 4–6 | **Social psychology*** group influences on behaviour
* compliance
* group polarisation
* social status and power
* conformity and obedience – Asch, Milgram, Zimbardo
* bystander effect

**Task 7:** Essay – Social psychology |
| 7–8 | **Research methods – recapitulation*** ethics in psychology research
* participants’ rights – confidentiality, voluntary participation, withdrawal rights
* informed consent procedures
* deception in research
* experimental research method
* independent and dependent variables
* operational hypotheses
* controlled and uncontrolled variables
* experimental and control groups
* displaying quantitative data – tables, graphs, diagrams
* data interpretation
* mode
* mean
* median
* range

**Task 8:** Investigation report – Examining group influences on behaviour **or** Data interpretation |
| 9–11 | **Developmental psychology*** explanations of development
* Piaget’s theory of cognitive development
* Kohlberg’s theory of moral development
* cultural bias in developmental theories
* ways of studying influences on development
* twin studies
* adoption studies

**Task 9:** Topic test – Developmental psychology |
| 12 | **Research methods – recapitulation*** terminology
* experimental, non-experimental
* scientific, non-scientific
* sample
* population
* non-experimental (descriptive) research methods
* case studies, surveys, correlational studies
* qualitative methods for data collection
* objective quantitative measures in research
* physiological measures
* subjective quantitative measures in research
* checklists
* rating scales – Likert scale
* use of correlation to establish association between variables
* statistical significance
 |
| 13–15 | **Culture and values*** cultural diversity
* conventions and expectations
* cultures as social groups – collectivist, individualistic
* racism
* causes of prejudice
* reducing prejudice

**Task 10:** Reduce prejudice campaign – Culture and values |