**Sample Course Outline**

Psychology

General Year 11

**Copyright**

© School Curriculum and Standards Authority, 2014

This document – apart from any third party copyright material contained in it – may be freely copied, or communicated on an intranet, for non-commercial purposes in educational institutions, provided that the School Curriculum and Standards Authority is acknowledged as the copyright owner, and that the Authority’s moral rights are not infringed.

Copying or communication for any other purpose can be done only within the terms of the *Copyright Act 1968* or with prior written permission of the School Curriculum and Standards Authority. Copying or communication of any third party copyright material can be done only within the terms of the *Copyright Act 1968* or with permission of the copyright owners.

Any content in this document that has been derived from the Australian Curriculum may be used under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 3.0 Australia licence](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/3.0/au/)

**Disclaimer**

Any resources such as texts, websites and so on that may be referred to in this document are provided as examples of resources that teachers can use to support their learning programs. Their inclusion does not imply that they are mandatory or that they are the only resources relevant to the course.

# Sample course outline

# Psychology – General Year 11

## Unit 1 and Unit 2

#### Semester 1

| **Week** | **Key teaching points** |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | **Introduction to psychology**   * course structure * school assessment policy   **Research methods**   * psychology as a scientific endeavour to describe and explain how we think, feel and act * terminology – psychologist and psychiatrist * ethics in psychology research: * informed consent * confidentiality * voluntary participation |
| 2–4 | **Personality**   * introduction to personality theories * Psychodynamic – Freud * Trait theories – Eysenck * Humanistic theories – Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs * Type theory – Meyer-Friedman * nature of personality * continuity over time * consistency across situations   **Task 1:** Response – Topic test – Personality |
| 5–6 | **Research methods**   * psychological research * cross-sectional and longitudinal research designs – uses and limitations * data collection * qualitative methods * quantitative methods * displaying quantitative data – tables, graphs, diagrams * data interpretation * mode * mean * median * range * conclusions related to patterns in the data   Practice investigation: Are adolescents more likely to be early birds or night owls?  **Task 2:** Investigation – Data interpretation |
| 7 | **Task 3:** Investigation – The influence of birth order on personality |
| 8–11 | **Cognition**   * introduction to theories of intelligence * measuring mental age and intelligence quotient – Binet and Simon, Terman * empirical approaches to intelligence – Wechsler * multiple intelligences – Gardner * emotional intelligence – Goleman * cultural bias in intelligence testing   **Task 4:** Project – Poster – Cognition (Intelligence) |
| 12–13 | **Relational influences**   * agents of socialisation * family – attachment and parenting styles * peers * media * cultural differences in child rearing   **Task 5:** Response – Research task (Relational influences) |
| 14–15 | **Communication**   * types of non-verbal communication * body language * gestures * physical distance * facial expressions * touch and smell * effective communication * listener/receiver attributes * role of language in initiating, maintaining and regulating interpersonal relationships – peer, family, work   **Task 6 :** Project – Oral presentation (Communication) |

#### Semester 2

| **Week** | **Key teaching points** |
| --- | --- |
| 1–4 | **Biological influences/bases of behaviour**   * identify major parts of the brain * hindbrain * midbrain * forebrain * left and right hemispheres and their influence on behaviour * corpus callosum * factors that affect behaviour, emotion and thought * heredity – the role of genetics in determining behaviour * hormones – the effects of adrenaline and noradrenaline * physical activity – the effects of exercise on mood * recreational drugs – the effects of cannabis, alcohol, and amphetamine   **Task 7:** Response – Topic test – Biological influences |
| 5–8 | **Developmental psychology**   * types of development – cognitive, physical, social, emotional * changes with age * role of nature and nurture * Erikson’s stages of psychosocial development   **Task 8:** Response – Review of *Seven Up* series |
| 9–11 | **Social psychology**   * definition of a group * group behaviour * cooperation * competition * impact of group size * diffusion of responsibility   **Task 9:** Project – Leadership training guide |
| 12–13 | **Research methods**  Revise content from Unit 1 with a focus on:   * ethics in psychology research * informed consent * confidentiality * voluntary participation * data collection * qualitative methods * quantitative methods * displaying quantitative data – tables, graphs, diagrams * data interpretation * mode * mean * median * range * conclusions related to patterns in the data   **Task 10:** Investigation – Examining group influences on behaviour OR The influence of the group on joke telling |
| 14–15 | **Culture and values**   * definition of attitudes * social categorisation * formation of stereotypes and consequences * ways to reduce stereotypes * cultural differences in attitudes towards * disability * ageing * mental illness   **Task 11:** Project – Publication (Culture and values) |