Sample Course Outline

Psychology

General Year 11

**Acknowledgement of Country**

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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. Teachers must exercise their professional judgement as to the appropriateness of any they may wish to use.

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 |
| 5–7 | 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  |
| 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 3:** Poster – Cognition (Intelligence) |
| 12–13 | Relational influences* agents of socialisation
	+ family – attachment and parenting styles
	+ peers
	+ media
* cultural differences in child rearing

**Task 4:** 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
 |

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 5:** Response – Topic test – Communication, 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 6:** Response – Review – *Seven Up* series |
| 9–11 | Social psychology* definition of a group
* group behaviour
	+ cooperation
	+ competition
	+ impact of group size
* diffusion of responsibility
 |
| 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 7:** 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 8:** Project – Publication – Culture and values |