

9. Year 12 Subjects 2011 (Science)

VCE Psychology

Unit 3

Areas of Study:

- Mind, brain and body - This area of study focuses on the role of the functioning brain and nervous system in relation to awareness of self, the environment and behaviour.
- Memory - Memory is essential to our identity: it connects our past experiences to the present and shapes our future by enabling us to adapt to daily changes in our environment. Students investigate the retention of experiences and learning as memory and the factors that affect retention and recall of information. They study the neural basis of memory and the connectivity between brain areas to explain the complexity of memory, factors that affect memory and its decline over time, and the cause of forgetfulness.

Assessment:

Unit 3 consists of three separate outcomes:

- Outcome 1 - Students should be able to explain the relationship between the brain, states of consciousness including sleep, and behaviour, and describe the contribution of selected studies and brain research methods to the investigation of brain function.
- Outcome 2 - Students should be able to compare theories that explain the neural basis of memory and factors that affect its retention, and evaluate the effectiveness of techniques for improving and manipulating memory.

Assessment Break-Down:

For this unit, the Outcomes must be undertaken in one of two ways. Pair A may be selected for either Outcome 1 or Outcome 2. Pair B must be utilised for the outcome not covered by Pair A:

- PAIR A
 - Report of a research investigation conducted by the student
 - AND
 - one other task selected from:
 - o data analysis; media response; test
- PAIR B
 - Two tasks selected from:
 - o evaluation of research; data analysis; essay; media response; annotated folio of practical activities; oral presentation using two or more data types; test; visual presentation

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VCE Psychology (Cont...)

Unit 4

Areas of Study:

- Learning - This area of study explores the characteristics of learning as a process that plays a part in determining behaviour. Students study the neural basis of learning, and examine different types of learning: classical conditioning, operant conditioning, observational learning, one-trial learning, trial and error learning, insight learning and latent learning. Behaviour not dependent on learning is also explored.
- Mental health - Students use a biopsychosocial framework to investigate how biological, psychological and sociocultural factors interact to contribute to the development of an individual's mental functioning and mental health. The relationship between stress and mental health is investigated together with the strategies for coping with stress.

Assessment:

Unit 4 consists of three separate outcomes:

- Outcome 1 - Students should be able to explain the neural basis of learning, and compare and contrast different theories of learning and their applications.
- Outcome 2 – Students should be able to differentiate between mental health and mental illness, and use a biopsychosocial framework to explain the causes and management of stress, simple phobia and a selected mental disorder.

Assessment Break-Down:

For this unit, the Outcomes must be undertaken in one of two ways. Pair A may be selected for either Outcome 1 or Outcome 2. Pair B must be utilised for the outcome not covered by Pair A:

- PAIR A
 - Annotated folio of practical activities
 - AND
 - one other task selected from:
 - data analysis; media response; test
- PAIR B
 - Two tasks selected from:
 - evaluation of research; data analysis; essay; media response; report of a research investigation conducted by the student; oral presentation using two or more data types; test; visual presentation

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Assessment - Units 3 and 4

The student's level of achievement for Units 3 and 4 will be determined by school-assessed coursework, a mid-year and an end-of-year examination 90 minutes duration.

- Unit 3 School-Assessed Coursework: 17%
- Mid-year Examination Unit 3 33%
- Unit 4 School-Assessed Coursework: 17%
- End-of-year Examination Unit 4 33%

Other Information

- Psychology has a mid-year Exam AND an end of year Exam. A Practice Exam for the June Exam is held towards the end of May. Other practice exams are also held during Semester Two. It is important that students take every opportunity to ready themselves for these examinations.

Entry – Units 3 and 4

There are no entry requirements for students to get into Unit 3 Psychology. However, it is preferable if students complete one or both of Unit 1 and 2 Psychology prior to attempting to complete the Unit 3 and 4 progression. Students must complete Unit 3 before completing Unit 4.