

VCE PSYCHOLOGY 2016-2021: *THE STORY*

UNIT 1: How are behaviour and mental processes shaped?		Key skills
<p>Area of Study 1: How does the brain function?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of the brain in mental processes and behaviour • Brain plasticity and brain damage 	<p>Area of Study 2: What influences psychological development?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The complexity of psychological development • Atypical psychological development 	<p>The development of a set of key science skills, listed below, applies to all VCE science studies across Units 1 to 4 in all areas of study. These skills have been contextualised for Psychology and are further specified in the VCE Psychology study design:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop aims and questions, formulate hypotheses and make predictions • Plan and undertake investigations • Comply with safety and ethical guidelines • Conduct investigations to collect and record data • Analyse and evaluate data, methods and scientific models • Draw evidence-based conclusions • Communicate and explain scientific ideas
<p>Area of Study 3: Student-directed research investigation</p> <p>Students communicate a substantiated response to a selected question related to one of six topics: biopsychology; brain and the use of technology; cognition; psychological development; mental health and disorder; and changing thoughts, feelings and behaviour</p>		
UNIT 2: How do external factors influence behaviour and mental processes?		
<p>Area of Study 1: What influences a person's perception of the world?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensation and perception • Distortions of perception 	<p>Area of Study 2: How are people influenced to behave in particular ways?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social cognition • Social influences on behaviour 	
<p>Area of Study 3: Student-directed practical investigation</p> <p>Students design and undertake a practical investigation related to external influences on behaviour</p>		
UNIT 3: How does experience affect behaviour and mental processes?		
<p>Area of Study 1: How does the nervous system enable psychological functioning?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nervous system functioning • Stress as an example of a psychobiological process 	<p>Area of Study 2: How do people learn and remember?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neural basis of learning and memory • Models to explain learning • Process of memory • Reliability of memory 	
UNIT 4: How is wellbeing developed and maintained?		
<p>Area of Study 1: How do levels of consciousness affect mental processes and behaviour?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature of consciousness • Importance of sleep • Effects of sleep disturbances and possible treatments 	<p>Area of Study 2: What influences mental wellbeing?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defining mental health • Factors that contribute to the development and progression of mental health disorders • Application of a biopsychosocial approach, as a scientific model, to explain specific phobia • Maintenance of mental health 	
<p>Area of Study 3 (Unit 3 and/or 4): Practical investigation</p> <p>Students design and undertake a practical investigation related to mental processes and psychological functioning</p>		