



Psychology

What is Psychology?

Psychology is the scientific study of mental processes and behaviour. It aims to describe and explain both the universality of human experience, and individual and cultural diversity. It does this through the systematic study of behaviour, the processes that underlie it, and the factors that influence it.

Why study Psychology?

Because we are human, each of us uses psychological principles every day to understand our own behaviour and that of others. Psychology helps us to understand which of these principles apply to which people in which contexts. It tells us when our commonsense understanding of ourselves and our social worlds is accurate and when it is not. Psychology has direct relevance to our personal lives and to our lives as members of society. However, psychological knowledge not only provides insight into life as it currently is, but also opens the door to a range of possible futures. Psychological knowledge can be applied to improve outcomes and the quality of experience in every area of life (e.g. education, intimate relations, child rearing, employment, and leisure).

Course content of Psychology

This is a full year course. There are six topics.

- Introduction to Psychology
- Social Cognition
- Learning
- Personality
- Psychobiology of Altered States of Awareness
- Healthy Minds

Assessment Components

Assessment in Psychology consists of the following components, weighted as shown:

School Based Component: 70%

- Investigations Folio (30%) - This component will contain at least one group investigation and at least one individual investigation, and is externally moderated.
- Skills and Applications Tasks (40%) – This component will include tests, article evaluations, assignments and an oral, and is externally moderated.

Externally Moderated Component: 30%

- Examination

Psychology continued

Learning Requirements of the Course

At the end of the program in Stage 2 Psychology, students should be able to:

1. explain the factors that cause psychological differences and similarities between people and give examples of how these affect the behaviour of self, others, and groups
2. analyse the behaviour of themselves, others, and groups of people in different contexts in a way that recognises the values of independence and interdependence
3. demonstrate an understanding of ethical research by designing, undertaking, and evaluating guided investigations;
4. make informed decisions about issues, events, and situations in society by applying relevant psychological principles and ethics and by presenting particular points of view, giving examples of the thinking and reasoning behind them
5. demonstrate organisation and critical reflection in the application of psychological principles, taking into account ethical considerations
6. search for, evaluate, and organise psychological information and use appropriate terms effectively to communicate key ideas, understanding, processes, and values in a range of contexts
7. undertake a variety of roles while working as a member of a team to achieve individual and shared goals

Future Pathways in Psychology

Psychology is relevant to all fields of employment that involve contact with other people. It has applications in such diverse fields as child care, sales, health, journalism, information technology, law enforcement, marketing and advertising.

Psychology offers a number of pathways into post-secondary study and the workforce. It has specialist and generalist applications in both areas.

Required Text(s) for Psychology

Psychology Key Ideas - Textbook SACE 2 (2nd ed)

Psychology – SASTA Study Guide (2011 ed). Cutts et al.

What are the prerequisites?

Students should have achieved a C in a Stage 1 Science subject.

Students who have not completed a Stage 1 Science subject should have a B for English Studies.



TRINITY COLLEGE
Senior

Contact Details

For more information about studying Year 12 at Trinity College Senior, please contact the Head of Year 12 on 8523 8705 or visit: www.trinity.sa.edu.au/curriculum/index.htm

Further Information

More information about SACE may be obtained from the SACE Board of South Australia webpage at: www.sace.sa.edu.au