

GROUP 3 – PSYCHOLOGY

NATURE OF THE SUBJECT

Psychology is the systematic study of behaviour and mental processes. Psychology has its roots in both the natural and social sciences, leading to a variety of research designs and applications, and providing a unique approach to understanding modern society.

IB psychology examines the interaction of biological, cognitive and sociocultural influences on human behaviour, thereby adopting an integrative approach. Understanding how psychological knowledge is generated, developed and applied enables students to achieve a greater understanding of themselves and appreciate the diversity of human behaviour. The ethical concerns raised by the methodology and application of psychological research are key considerations in IB psychology.

Source : IBO, OCC – Psychology guide

AIMS

The psychology aims are to:

1. Develop an awareness of how psychological research can be applied for the benefit of human beings
2. Ensure that ethical practices are upheld in psychological inquiry
3. Develop an understanding of the biological, cognitive and sociocultural influences on human behaviour
4. Develop an understanding of alternative explanations of behaviour
5. Understand and use diverse methods of psychological inquiry.

Source : IBO, OCC – Psychology guide

SYLLABUS – OUTLINE

Year 1

Intro – Research in psychology

The Biological Approach

Brain and behavior

Hormones and behavior

Genetics and behavior

Animal research (HL only)

The Cognitive Approach

Cognitive Processing

Cognition and Emotion

Reliability of cognitive processes

Human relationships (HL only)

Social responsibility

Interpersonal relationships

Group dynamics

Cognitive processing in the digitalized world Intro to Internal Assessment
Year 2
Qualitative Research (HL only) Theory and practice Interviews Case studies Observations The Socio-cultural Approach The individual and the group Cultural origins of behavior and cognition Cultural influences on individual attitudes, identity and behavior The influence of globalization on individual attitudes, identities and behavior (HL only) Abnormal Psychology Factors influencing diagnosis Etiology of abnormal behavior Treatment of disorders

ASSESSMENT – OUTLINE

Assessment component	Weighing
External assessment (3 hours)	75% SL 80% HL
Paper 1 (2 hours) Section A: Three compulsory questions on part 1 of the syllabus. Section B: Three questions on part 1 of the syllabus. Students choose one question to answer in essay form.	50% SL 35% HL
Paper 2 (1 hour) Fifteen questions on part 2 of the syllabus. Students choose one question (SL) or two questions (HL) to answer in essay form.	25%
Paper 3 (HL only) (1 hour) Three compulsory questions based on an unseen text, covering part 3 of the syllabus.	20%
Internal assessment A report of a simple experimental study conducted by the student.	25% SL 20% HL