

Psychology A/T

“When I look at the world I’m a pessimist. When I look at people I’m an optimist”

Carl Rogers

Psychology is the study of the human mind and behaviour. Students develop an understanding of themselves and others by exploring the interactions between the individuals and groups as well as the roles of biological and environmental factors.

Students develop skills which promote higher-order thinking and apply evidence-based research for understanding and interpreting human behaviour. Students develop analytical and critical thinking skills and learn to question and challenge assumptions about human behaviour. They develop skills to communicate effectively and present logical and coherent arguments.

The study of Psychology enables learners to understand how individuals think, feel and act within different contexts. Such knowledge has the potential to empower and enhance individual abilities and facilitate awareness of the human condition, along with tolerance and respect for others.

Students develop their knowledge and understanding of theories, concepts and perspectives to explain cognition and behaviour. They analyse the nature and purpose of psychology and develop insights into types of behaviour across a range of contexts.

Course Patterns

Unit 1: Self and Identity
Unit 2: Cognition and Emotions
Unit 3: Normality and Abnormality
Unit 4: Groups and Society

There are no compulsory or pre-requisite units in this course.

The units shown are classified A and T.



Units

Unit 1: Self and Identity

Students examine traditional and contemporary psychological understandings of how individuals develop a unique self and identities in their context, using a range of approaches, including the interaction between nature and nurture. In examining differences, they will focus on individual difference in thoughts, feelings, and behaviour. Students develop skills in ethically and scientifically generating, evaluating, and communicating valid qualitative and quantitative data and conclusions.

Unit 2: Cognition and Emotions

This unit examines traditional and contemporary understandings on the basis of human cognition and emotion in context. Students explore how our perception of, and feelings about, the world shapes our interaction with it. They develop skills in ethically and scientifically generating, evaluating, and communicating valid qualitative and quantitative data and conclusions.

Unit 3: Normality and Abnormality

This unit examines traditional and contemporary understandings of the continuum of normality and abnormality, and the social construction of healthy and unhealthy thoughts, feelings, and behaviour. Students explore biological, psychological, and social, and contextual aspects of normality and abnormality, how they

are determined, and how that has changed over time. They develop skills in ethically and scientifically generating, evaluating, and communicating valid qualitative and quantitative data and conclusions.

Unit 4: Groups and Society

This unit examines traditional and contemporary understandings of the implications of identity and membership within groups and society for thoughts, emotions, and behaviour. They explore how and why humans think, feel and act in group and social settings using a range of approaches. They develop skills in ethically and scientifically generating, evaluating, and communicating valid qualitative and quantitative data and conclusions.

Unit 5: Independent Study

Independent Study is possible for T students who have completed 3 units in this course.

