Subject: STAGE 1 PSYCHOLOGY – Semester 2

Course Content

Psychology is the study of human behavior. It addresses the ways that behavior patterns develop and can change. Students learn that the psychological evidence, theories and principles address for levels of explanation of behavior – biological, basic, person and sociocultural. Studying Psychology enables students to better understand their own behaviors and the behaviors of others, and has a direct relevance to their personal lives. Psychological knowledge can be applied to improve outcomes and the quality of experience in various areas of life, such as education, intimate relationships, child rearing, employment and leisure.

The following topics are studied in Stage 1 Psychology this year:

- Introduction to Psychology
- Social Behaviour including:
  - Social Influence
  - Social Interaction
- Human Psychological Development

Stage 1 Psychology is an evidence-based subject in which ethical issues have a central place.

Stage 1 Psychology is designed around four levels of explanation of behaviour:

- the biological level of explanation, which focuses on the biological and chemical processes underlying behaviour.
- the basic processes level of explanation, which focuses on the psychological processes that are universal (or at least very widespread) across humans.
- the person level of explanation, which focuses on individual differences in behaviour.
- the sociocultural level of explanation, which focuses on the influence that other people exert on behaviour by studying behaviour in social and cultural contexts.

This subject outline shows that some topics have a special richness in knowledge, research methods, and ethical considerations in relation to a particular level of explanation of behaviour. Through the study of such topics, students are provided with in-depth illustrations of each level of explanation.

Assessment

Investigations 40%
- Group Investigation – Conformity 20%
- Individual Investigation – Anti-social Behaviour 20%

Skills & Applications Tasks 60%
- Intro to Psychology Test 20%
- Movie Extended Response 20%
- Human Psychological Development Test 20%