

Psychology:

Unit 1:

This unit introduces students to the scientific study of psychology as the investigation into human behaviour and the mental processes that determine it; including perception, cognition and emotion. Students learn about the use of theories, models and controlled observations to describe and explain human behaviour.

The focus of this unit is an introduction to the scientific foundation of psychology. In this context, human behaviour is examined in social situations where certain behaviours are seen to be a consequence of environmental processes. Individual development of cognitive and perceptual abilities is also explored.

Unit 2:

In this unit students learn about different methods and models that describe and explain human behaviour.

This unit focuses on internal physical, chemical and biological processes that inform behaviour. This context is based on the understanding of neuronal structures and the nervous system at the basic level.

Methods of studying the differences in behaviour between people are evaluated.

The study of individual behaviour in social situations is explored where behaviours can be influenced by attitudes resulting from environmental influences. Measurement tools applied to studies of attitude are investigated.

Unit 3:

This unit focuses on the brain and the nervous system as a whole structure and investigates their role in affecting human behaviour. Brain research methods are examined and different approaches of psychology are integrated in a study of visual perception and states of consciousness. These approaches are used to explain behaviour in terms of internal physical and biological processes.

Research methods are integrated within the different approaches to psychology and students learn to make evaluations of the appropriateness of each model. Research studies are used to illustrate the application of statistical measures to the development of models and theories of psychology. Consideration of ethical principles in the conduct of psychological research and practice is included.

Unit 4:

In this unit students study cognitive psychological methods through the concepts of memory and learning. The concept of behaviour is understood in terms of mental processing of information.

Research methods continue to be integrated within the different methodological approaches to psychology. Students apply these methods to different studies and make evaluations of the appropriateness of each model. Research studies are used to illustrate the application of statistical procedures to the development of models and theories of psychology. The application and understanding of ethical principles in the conduct of psychological research and practice is extended as students complete a research investigation.

