

Psychology 2019 v1.3

General Senior Syllabus

MERIDAN STATE COLLEGE - PSY (possible 4 QCE credits)

DISCLAIMER: excerpt only - refer to QCAA website for further details
www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/senior-subjects

1 Course overview

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Rationale

At the core of all science endeavour is the inquiry into the nature of the universe. Science uses a systematic way of thinking, involving creative and critical reasoning, in order to acquire better and more knowledge. Scientists recognise that knowledge is not fixed, but is fallible and open to challenge. As such, scientific endeavour is never conducted in isolation, but builds on and challenges an existing body of knowledge in the pursuit of more reliable knowledge. This collaborative process, whereby new knowledge is gained, is essential to the cooperative advancement of science, technology, health and society in the 21st century.

Tertiary study in any field will be aided by the transferable skills developed in this senior Science subject. It is expected that an appreciation of, and respect for, evidence-based conclusions and the processes required to gather, scrutinise and use evidence, will be carried forward into all aspects of life beyond the classroom.

The purpose of senior Science subjects in Queensland is to introduce students to a scientific discipline. Students will be required to learn and apply aspects of the knowledge and skill of the discipline (thinking, experimentation, problem-solving and research skills), understand how it works and how it may impact society.

Upon completion of the course, students will have an appreciation for a body of scientific knowledge and the process that is undertaken to acquire this knowledge. They will be able to distinguish between claims and evidence, opinion and fact, and conjecture and conclusions.

In each of the senior Science subjects, students will develop:

- a deep understanding of a core body of discipline knowledge
- aspects of the skills used by scientists to develop new knowledge, as well as the opportunity to refine these skills through practical activities
- the ability to coordinate their understandings of the knowledge and skills associated with the discipline to refine experiments, verify known scientific relationships, explain phenomena with justification and evaluate claims by finding evidence to support or refute the claims.

Psychology provides opportunities for students to engage with concepts that explain behaviours and underlying cognitions. In Unit 1, students examine individual development in the form of the role of the brain, cognitive development, human consciousness and sleep. In Unit 2, students investigate the concept of intelligence, the process of diagnosis and how to classify psychological disorder and determine an effective treatment, and lastly, the contribution of emotion and motivation on the individual behaviour. In Unit 3, students examine individual thinking and how it is determined by the brain, including perception, memory, and learning. In Unit 4, students consider the influence of others by examining theories of social psychology, interpersonal processes, attitudes and cross-cultural psychology.

Psychology aims to develop students':

- interest in psychology and their appreciation for how this knowledge can be used to understand contemporary issues
- appreciation of the complex interactions, involving multiple parallel processes that continually influence human behaviour
- understanding that psychological knowledge has developed over time and is used in a variety of contexts, and is informed by social, cultural and ethical considerations
- ability to conduct a variety of field research and laboratory investigations involving collection and analysis of qualitative and quantitative data and interpretation of evidence
- ability to critically evaluate psychological concepts, interpretations, claims and conclusions with reference to evidence
- ability to communicate psychological understandings, findings, arguments and conclusions using appropriate representations, modes and genres.

Assumed knowledge, prior learning or experience

The P–10 Australian Curriculum: Science is assumed knowledge for this syllabus.

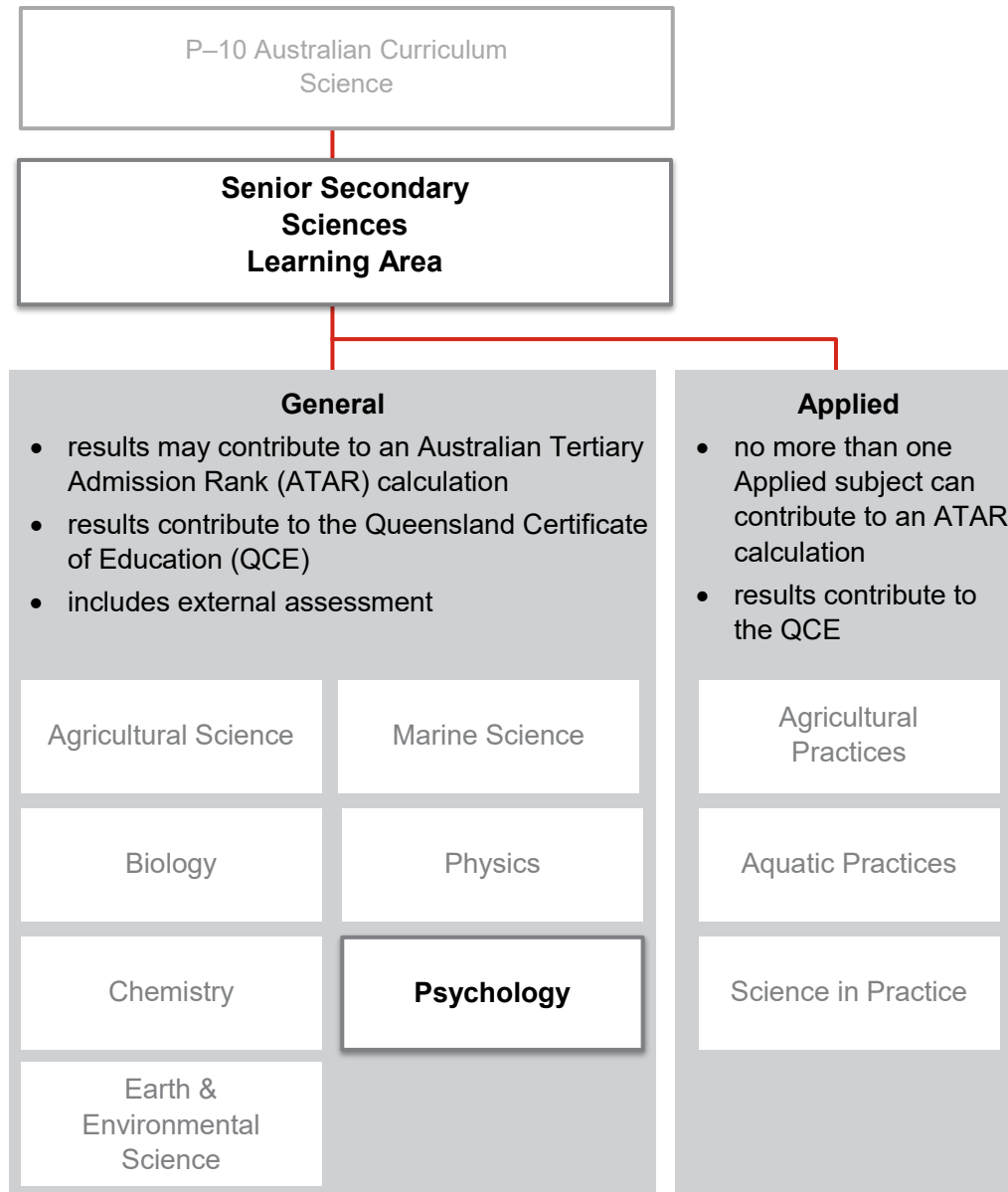
Pathways

Psychology is a General subject suited to students who are interested in pathways beyond school that lead to tertiary studies, vocational education or work. A course of study in Psychology can establish a basis for further education and employment in the fields of psychology, sales, human resourcing, training, social work, health, law, business, marketing and education.

1.1.2 Learning area structure

All learning areas build on the P–10 Australian Curriculum.

Figure 1: Learning area structure



1.1.3 Course structure

Psychology is a course of study consisting of four units. Subject matter, learning experiences and assessment increase in complexity from Units 1 and 2 to Units 3 and 4 as students develop greater independence as learners.

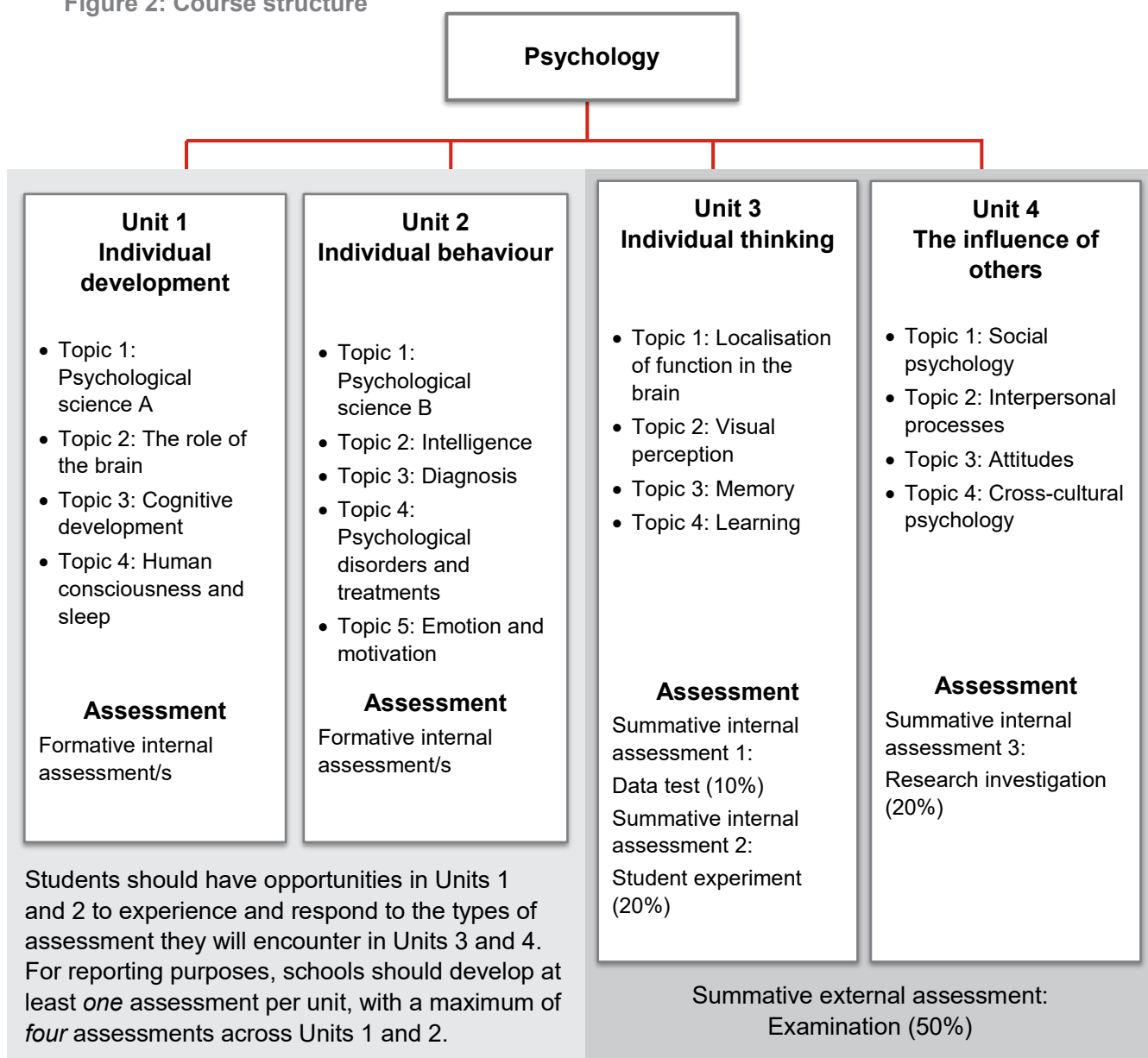
Units 1 and 2 provide foundational learning, which allows students to experience all syllabus objectives and begin engaging with the course subject matter. Students should complete Units 1 and 2 before beginning Units 3 and 4.

Units 3 and 4 consolidate student learning. Only the results from Units 3 and 4 will contribute to ATAR calculations.

Figure 2 outlines the structure of this course of study.

Each unit has been developed with a notional time of 55 hours of teaching and learning, including assessment.

Figure 2: Course structure



Additional Requirements

Study Requirements	Special Requirements
<p>This is a General subject and as such requires a significant commitment of time and energy to complete the course successfully. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Three lessons per week face to face teaching• Individual/study group/tutorial sessions 2-3 hours per week• Students will be required to complete assignment work in their own time. Some inclass time will be given to teach structures, genres, researching methods and analytical processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Due to the academic scientific rigour of this subject, students should have obtained a C in Year 10 Biology, Chemistry or Physics; or a B in Science or the Year 10 Health elective; and also be studying Senior General English.• Students must also be able to borrow resources from the school library at all times.• Due to the large amount of research based assessment and classwork it is recommended that students are participants in the College's BYOx program.• Students must also be prepared to participate in weekly handwritten extended response tasks.