Psychology is the scientific study of how we think, feel and act. This course is designed to integrate the understanding of scientific principles, the acquisition of psychological knowledge and the application of these in an enjoyable and contemporary forum.

**Psychology 2AB**

This is a semesterised Psychology course for students to develop strong psychological skills and awareness for further study. It is suitable for students who are seeking university entrance and is highly recommended for students entering a science or social science field. There is also strong link to community services and human support.

**Recommended Background**

To be successful in this course, students should have obtained:

- B grade or above in Year 10 English and Science.

**Commitment**

Students will be required to:

- Complete 3 hours of study per week; and
- Undertake extra readings of psychological papers.

**Course Content (2A)**

In this unit, students focus on contexts related to contemporary issues. The content focuses on a number of concepts that enable students to fully appreciate the complexities of human behaviour, at an individual, group and societal level. In this course students will:

- Describe factors that affect behaviour;
- Summarise and display data in an organised way;
- Describe intelligence and the history of intelligence testing;
- Identify cultural bias in testing;
- Identify independent and dependent variables in research;
- Explain the relationship between physical, cognitive, emotional and social development;
- Evaluate theories of:
  - Social Learning;
  - Cognitive Development; and
  - Learning and Personality;
- Describe the impact of the presence of others on individual behaviour such as social facilitation and inhibition.

**Psychology 2B**

In this unit, students focus on contexts related to human performance. The content focuses on memory and forgetting, motivation and arousal and how they affect human performance. In this unit students will:

- Describe the concept of learning in terms of classical and operant conditioning;
- Explain psychological concepts and processes associated with memory;
- Evaluate perception and signal detection theory;
- Describe developmental issues as they relate to the study of human performance;
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- Kohlberg’s theory; and
- Piaget’s theory.

- Behaviour change and behaviour modification strategies;
- Explain factors that affect behaviour, emotion and thought;
- Describe strategies of intervention in relationships;
- Analyse aspects of conflict resolution such as:
  - Mediation and counselling;
  - Cultural influences and behaviour;
  - Social and emotional development;
  - Attachment and connectedness;
  - Emotional regulation;
  - Autonomy and identity; and
  - Moral development.

Course Content (3B)

In this unit, students focus on contexts related to diversity and community. Students extend their understanding of the relationship between physical, cognitive and social development in shaping behaviour. In this unit students will:

- Explore the anatomy and physiology of the brain and nervous system;
- Discuss human and animal research;
- Explain altered state of consciousness and experiencing and controlling pain;
- Describe distortions of visual perception and illusions;
- Evaluate theories of social psychology:
  - Allport; and
  - Attribution theory.
- Explore communication and social skills development:
  - Innate and learned;
  - Robinson’s social skills; and
- Evaluate the influence of social and political changes on research and practices in psychology.