THE WORTHGATE SCHOOL
CANTERBURY

COURSE DESCRIPTOR

IBDP PSYCHOLOGY

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Have you ever wondered why some people are frightened of snakes and other people think they are cuddly? Why do some people suffer from stress and mental illness and others don't? Are you interested in finding out what makes people 'tick'? If so, then Psychology is the subject for you. It is a science with cutting edge research that has real world application to everyday issues in life.

PRIOR LEARNING REQUIRED

An interest in and curiosity about human behaviour
GCSE or equivalent
IELTS 5.5 or equivalent

EXAM BOARD

IBDP

COURSE CONTENT

Year 1	Year 2
Core component 1 – Definition and Scope of Psychology: The scientific study of behaviour and mental processes. Historical evolution of psychology, covering major schools of thought such as structuralism, functionalism,	**Core component 3** – Approaches to Understanding Behaviour: Biological Approach Cognitive Approach Sociocultural Approach

psychoanalysis, behaviourism, humanism, and cognitive psychology. **Core component 2** – Research Methods in Psychology: Qualitative & Quantitative Approaches, Research Designs, Data Analysis	**Research proposal**: Develop a research proposal using one of the four research methods used in the class practicals. This component is internally assessed by the teacher and externally moderated by the IB at the end of the course.

ASSESSMENT

Formal internal assessments take place once every half term and homework is set on a regular basis.
Grades are determined by four components: three examined modules and an Experimental Study (or Non-Examined Assessment). Final examinations take place in May at the end of the 2-year course.
An end of year exam must be passed for entry to year 2 and a mock exam must be passed for entry into the public exams.

Paper	Length of paper	Weighting
1. Integration of the content, concepts and the context	35 marks 1,5 hours written paper	25% HL 35% SL
2. Applying concepts and content to research contexts	35 marks 1.5 hours written paper	25% HL 35% SL
3. Data analysis and interpretation of research data	30 marks 1,75 hours written paper	30% HL
4. Research proposal	24 marks Between 1,800 and 2,200 words (non-exam assessment)	20% HL 30% SL

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TEXTBOOKS/REVISION GUIDES

Title	ISBN	Author
Oxford Resources for IB: DP Psychology Course Book	978-1382056663	Alexey Popov

Summaries of each unit, your notes and past examination papers will be your major source of revision.

HIGHER EDUCATION PATHWAYS

Psychology will enhance your skills in analysis and evaluation, essay writing and presentation work, and application of knowledge to current events, which are highly valued by universities and employers. Psychology is popular with students who wish to study Sociology, Criminology, and Behavioural Sciences at university and/or enter careers in Clinical Psychology and counselling, Marketing, Forensic Psychology, or Experimental Psychology.
Previous Psychology students have gained acceptance in undergraduate courses at prestigious Russell group universities.

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS OF STUDY

Sociology, History

CURRICULUM DIRECTOR

Mr Dims Ashton