

Grade 12 Psychology (40S) Outcomes – Unedited Draft¹

Theme 1: Introduction and Research Methods

Topic 1: Introduction

- 1.1.1 Define psychology, and list and explain its goals.
- 1.1.2 Describe and compare the biological, behavioural, cognitive, sociocultural, humanistic, and psychodynamic perspectives.
- 1.1.3 Discuss career opportunities in the major subfields of psychology.

Topic 2: Research Methods

- 1.2.1 Describe and compare quantitative and qualitative research strategies.
- 1.2.2 Demonstrate an understanding of how statistics are used in psychological research.
- 1.2.3 Describe ethical issues in psychological research.
- 1.2.4 Discuss the development of psychology as an empirical science.

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Theme 2: Biopsychology

Topic 1: Biological Bases of Behaviours

- 2.1.1 Describe the structure, function and organization of the nervous system.
- 2.1.2 Describe the structure and function of the major regions of the brain.
- 2.1.3 Demonstrate an understanding of scientific advances that have been developed to analyze brain behaviour and disease.
- 2.1.4 Describe the relationship between the endocrine glands and the nervous system.
- 2.1.5 Compare the effects of genetics, evolution and environment on behaviour.

Topic 2: Sensation and Perception

- 2.2.1 Identify the basic concepts of sensory processes and explain their capabilities and limitations.
- 2.2.2 Relate knowledge of sensory processes to applications in areas such as engineering psychology, advertising, music, and architecture.
- 2.2.3 Discuss the interaction of the person and the environment in determining perception.

Topic 3: Motivation and Emotion

- 2.3.1 Apply motivational concepts to the behaviour of humans and other animals.
- 2.3.2 Investigate the role of biology and learning in motivation and emotion.
- 2.3.3 Describe the theories of motivation.
- 2.3.4 Discuss cultural factors in emotions and motivations.
- 2.3.5 Describe theories of emotion.

Topic 4: Stress, Coping, and Health

- 2.4.1 Identify the sources of stress, and explain the psychological and physiological reactions to stress.
- 2.4.2 Identify and explain cognitive and behavioural strategies to deal with stress and promote health.
- 2.4.3 Investigate different holistic approaches to deal with stress and promote health.

Theme 3: Developmental Psychology

Topic 1: Life Span Development

- 3.1.1 Describe physical, social, emotional and cognitive changes throughout the human life span.
- 3.1.2 Discuss how biological and cultural notions of gender shape the experiences of men and women.
- 3.1.3 Examine the development of ethnic identity.

Topic 2: Personality and Assessment

- 3.2.1 Define personality.
- 3.2.2 Explain the characteristics of the psychodynamic, cognitive-behavioural, humanistic, and trait approaches.
- 3.2.3 Compare and contrast various forms of personality assessment.

Theme 4: Cognitive Psychology

Topic 1: Learning

- 4.1.1 Define learning from a psychological perspective.
- 4.1.2 Describe classical conditioning.
- 4.1.3 Describe operant conditioning.
- 4.1.4 Explain observational and cognitive learning approaches.
- 4.1.5 Discuss the roles of biology and culture in learning.

Topic 2: Memory

- 4.2.1 Describe encoding.
- 4.2.2 Describe sensory, short-term, and long-term memory systems.
- 4.2.3 Describe retrieval.
- 4.2.4 Investigate strategies for improving memory.

Topic 3: Thinking and Language

- 4.3.1 Explain how thinking involves the manipulation and understanding of information.
- 4.3.2 Recognize that information is classified into categories, containing similar properties known as concepts.
- 4.3.3 Compare the different strategies and obstacles involved in problem solving and decision-making.
- 4.3.4 Discuss language acquisition across species.

Topic 4: States of Consciousness

- 4.4.1 Describe states and levels of consciousness.
- 4.4.2 Describe the sleep cycle.
- 4.4.3 Compare theories that explain why we sleep.
- 4.4.4 Demonstrate an understanding of types of sleep disorders.
- 4.4.5 Compare different dream theories.
- 4.4.6 Describe hypnosis and its uses in psychology.
- 4.4.7 Characterize the major categories of psychoactive drugs and their effects.

Topic 5: Individual Differences

- 4.5.1 Explain how intelligence and personality may be influenced by heredity and environment.
- 4.5.2 Discuss theories of intelligence.
- 4.5.3 Demonstrate an understanding of how intelligence is measured.

Theme 5: Variations in Individual and Group Behaviour

Topic 1: Psychological Disorders and Treatments

- 5.1.1 Differentiate between normal, abnormal, and disordered behaviour.
- 5.1.2 Discuss the major categories of disorders.
- 5.1.3 Distinguish the common characteristics of disorders and cite examples.
- 5.1.4 Identify the principle methods used to treat individuals with psychological disorders.

Topic 2: Social and Cultural Dimensions of Behaviour

- 5.2.1 Demonstrate an understanding of person perception, attraction, social judgment, and attitude formation.
- 5.2.2 Identify basic social and cultural categories and discuss how these affect behaviour.
- 5.2.3 Demonstrate an understanding of the effects of the presence of others on individual behaviour.
- 5.2.4 Describe how social structure can affect intergroup relations.
- 5.2.5 Discuss the nature and effects of bias and discrimination toward groups such as indigenous peoples, immigrants, and refugees.
- 5.2.6 Discuss the circumstances under which conformity, compliance, and obedience are likely to occur.
- 5.2.7 Discuss the nature and benefits of altruism in society.
- 5.2.8 Demonstrate an understanding of the role of aggression in society.