



Marietta City Schools

2025–2026 District Unit Planner

IB Psychology Y1

Unit Title/ Topic	Unit 1: Introduction to IB Psychology	Hours	4.5 Hours
Mastering Content and Skills through INQUIRY (Establishing the purpose of the Unit): <i>Students will learn what Psychology is and how it is approached in the IB course. They will learn the course requirements and assessment formats.</i>			
Unit Description and texts			
<p>Students will learn the meaning of behavior and cognition, and how they are studied by psychologists. They will learn the three basic approaches to psychology-biological, cognitive and sociocultural, and how they are studied together for a more holistic understanding. They will learn the format of the course and its focus on the Contexts, Content and Concepts of psychological inquiry. Furthermore, students will learn about the format of the IB Psychology assessments and the timing for them within the course.</p> <p>Texts:</p> <p>Popov, Alexey, Lee Parker, & Darren Seath (2025). <i>IB Psychology Course Companion, 2025 Edition</i>. Oxford, UK: Oxford</p> <p>Jennie Brooks Jamison (2013). <i>Understanding Research Methods in Psychology, 2nd Edition</i>.</p> <p>Travis Dixon and Themantic Education (2025). <i>IB Psychology, A Student's Guide, 2nd Edition</i>.</p> <p>Online:</p> <p>InThinking.net</p> <p>IB Psychology Guide</p> <p>IB On-line Program Resource Center</p> <p>Themantic Education.com</p> <p><u>Concepts/Skills to be Mastered by Students</u></p> <p><u>Information Processing</u></p> <p>1: compare similarities and differences</p>			

2: organize items chronologically

Map & Globe Skills

Not used

Reading Standards

L11-12RHSS4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including analyzing how an author uses and refines the meaning of a key term over the course of a text

L11-12RHSS7: Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media in order to address a question or solve a problem.

Writing Standards

L11-12WHST10: Write routinely over extended time frames

Transfer goals/Skills	Approaches to learning (ATL)
<p>Skills:</p> <p>Students' thinking</p> <p>Social Emotional skills</p> <p>Details:</p> <p>Students will learn to evaluate behavior and cognition using multiple approaches.</p> <p>Students will learn to work together to solve a problem or complete a task.</p>	<p>Category: Thinking Cluster: Critical thinking: Analyzing and evaluating issues and ideas Skill Indicator: Draw reasonable conclusions and generalizations using real-world examples and psychological studies as evidence</p> <p>Category: Social Cluster: Collaboration skills: Working effectively with others Skill Indicator: Delegate and share responsibility for decision-making</p> <p>Category: Communication Cluster: Communication skills: Exchanging thoughts, messages and information effectively through interaction Skill Indicator: Create and share presentations of new information to class</p>
Content/skills/concepts	Learning process
<p><u>Students will know the following content:</u></p> <p>Behavior vs Cognition</p> <p>Concepts: Change & Prevalence (rates); Bias; Perspective; Measurement; Causality</p>	<p>Details:</p> <p>Small group/pair work - Students will be working in small groups to collaborate on examples of behavior and cognition</p> <p>Group presentations - Students will create group presentations of specific information to be included in each content area</p>

<p>Examples of Conformity (Jonestown) & Compliance (Holocaust)</p> <p>3 Approaches to Psychology- Biological, Cognitive & Sociocultural</p> <p>Psychological research basics: scientific method, hypotheses, quantitative data</p> <p>Effects, Theories & Models in Psychology-Social Learning Theory, Stroop Effect, Multi-store Model of memory</p> <p>Course overview- Concepts, Content & Contexts; IB exams and scoring</p> <p><u>Students will develop the following skills:</u></p> <p>Explain the study/discipline of Psychology in general and in the IB course, specifically.</p> <p>Apply the basic Concepts to understand behavior and cognition in specific Contexts, using real-world examples and psychological studies.</p> <p>Evaluate the use of the 3 different approaches in studying behavior and cognition</p> <p>Demonstrate a clear understanding of the course format and expectations for assessments.</p> <p><u>Students will grasp the following concepts:</u></p> <p>Quantitative research methods & Measurement</p> <p>Behavior and Cognition</p> <p>Biological, Cognitive and Sociocultural Approaches to psychology</p> <p>Differences between theories, effects and models in psychology</p> <p>Change & Prevalence (rates); Bias; Perspective; Causality</p>	<p>PowerPoint lecture/notes - Students will take notes from powerpoint through teacher-led discussion with checkpoint questions</p> <p>Others:</p> <p>Vocabulary review games</p> <p>TedTalk videos</p> <p>Hands-on activities</p>	
Language and Learning	TOK Connections	CAS connections
<p>Scaffolding for new learning</p> <p>Acquisition of new learning through practice</p> <p>Details:</p> <p>Building background knowledge through the student's mother tongue, when necessary, and if applicable. Students will acquire new learning through several scaffolding mediums, such as, but not limited to visual aids, small collaborative</p>	<p>Areas of knowledge</p> <p>The knowledge framework</p> <p>Details:</p> <p>Students will make three connections of the six recommended AOKs in TOK: natural sciences, human sciences, and ethics. Students will be able to effectively examine these AOKs through several knowledge framework features, such as: scope, motivation and applications</p> <p>specific terminology and concepts</p>	<p>Behavior Activity</p> <p>Details:</p> <p>Students will make connections to individual behavior and potential CAS activities</p>

group assignments, and individual interactive activities. While students acquire new learning, they will also read and use research studies to develop analytical and critical thinking skills.		These framework features will shape the AOKs.			
Essential Understandings and Questions					
Factual: What are the three approaches to studying psychology used in the IB course?					
Conceptual Contrast the differences between behavior and cognition and the relative difficulties in studying each					
Debatable: To what extent can quantitative research data be limited in its validity?					
Assessment Tasks List of common formative and summative assessments.					
DP Assessments		Formative Assessments	Critical thinking questions Quizzes Short answer response questions Group Projects	Summative Assessments	Unit 1 Assessment-multiple choice
Learning Experiences Add additional rows below as needed					
Topic or Content		Learning Experiences		Personalized Learning and Differentiation	
Behavior and Cognition		Guided notes from Canva presentation (embedded video clips and partner/small group discussions). Small groups evaluate scenarios illustrating conformity and compliance. Individual student research on a specific behavior. Class experiment on the Anchoring Effect. Wrap-up Journal writing to check for understanding. Homework-students research and create a poster on a cognitive bias of their choice		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Scaffolded learning via chunking informationExtended learning via Crash Course and Edpuzzle videosSelf-directed learning by way of problem-based learningGrouping via random or self-selectionJigsaw technique	

Three Approaches to Psychology- Biological, Cognitive & Sociocultural, and Basics of Psychological Research.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Guided notes from Canva presentation (embedded video clip, student polls and partner/small group discussions).• In small groups, students will analyze case studies related to criminal behavior, applying each of the three approaches to explain the behavior in question.• Wrap-up: Quick quiz to check for understanding.• Homework: students to research a specific behavior and analyze it from the three perspectives-biological, cognitive and sociocultural, using the worksheet provided for their reflections	
Effects, Theories & Models and Course Overview	Guided notes from Canva presentation (embedded video clip, student polls and partner/small group discussions). Individuals conduct Stroop Effect online test. Partner activity: students are assigned a psychological theory and practice using the DEAL framework to evaluate the theory. Individual practice: students to individually complete a comparison chart for social learning theory and realistic group conflict theory using the DEAL framework. Wrap-up Journal writing to check for understanding.	
Content Resources		
Popov, Alexey, Lee Parker, & Darren Seath (2017). <i>IB Psychology Course Companion</i> , 2nd Edition. Oxford, UK: Oxford Jennie Brooks Jamison (2013). <i>Understanding Research Methods in Psychology</i> , 2nd Edition. Travis Dixon and Themantic Education (2017). <i>IB Psychology, A Student’s Guide</i> InThinking.net IB Psychology Guide IB On-line Program Resource Center Themantic Education.com Behavior and Cognition-Lesson 1 Lesson plan Canva presentation		

Three Approaches to Psychology & Basics of Psychological Research-Lesson 2

[Lesson plan](#)

[Canva presentation](#)

[Group Criminal Scenario Activity](#)

[Homework Activity](#)

Effects, Theories & Models and Course Overview-Lesson 3

[Canva presentation](#)

[Partner activity](#)

Individual practice- [Comparison Chart](#)

Assessment:

[Formative quiz](#)-Lesson 2

[Summative Assessment](#)