

KIST DP Course Descriptions 2011-2012

Group: Group 3

Level: HL/SL

Subject: Psychology

Grade: 12

Unit Number: 1

Unit Title: Internal Assessment

Approximate Duration: 3 months

Key Concepts:

Students will learn how to conduct psychological research with human participants

Students will determine how researchers may influence experimental outcomes unintentionally and how to avoid expectancy bias

LP Link: Thinker

TOK Link(s):

Analyse critically knowledge claims, their underlying assumptions and their implications through the creation and implementation of a simple psychological experiment.

Description of the Unit:

Internal assessment is an integral part of the course and is compulsory for both SL and HL students. It enables students to demonstrate the application of their skills and knowledge, and to pursue their personal interests, without the time limitations and other constraints that are associated with written examinations.

This unit builds on course work integrated throughout the first year of the course. Specific emphasis is placed on quantitative experimental research methods. Experimental design, methods, procedures, descriptive statistics, (inferential statistics at the HL) and ethical concerns are applied to psychological research. It provides the requisite background to conduct a successful psychological experiment appropriate for high school students.

This unit is a continuation from last semester of Grade 11 for all students.

Key Knowledge/Skills Addressed:

Experimental design

Explain the controls needed for an experiment

Explain effects of participant and researcher expectations and bias

Discuss the strengths and limitations of experimental designs

Sampling procedures

Explain the concept of representative sampling.

Apply descriptive statistics to analyze data

Apply appropriate graphing techniques to represent data

Apply an appropriately chosen statistical test in order to determine the level of significance of data (HL only)

Main Summative Assessment of the Unit: DP Internal Assessment