VCE Psychology: Performance descriptors

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| **PSYCHOLOGY**  **SCHOOL-ASSESSED COURSEWORK** | | | | | |
| **Performance descriptors** | | | | | |
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| ***Unit 4***  ***Outcome 2***  ***Explain the concepts of mental health and mental illness including influences of risk and protective factors, apply a biopsychosocial approach to explain the development and management of specific phobia, and explain the psychological basis of strategies that contribute to mental wellbeing.*** | **DESCRIPTOR: typical performance in each range** | | | | |
| **Very low** | **Low** | **Medium** | **High** | **Very high** |
| Limited description of mental health as a continuum influenced by internal and external factors that can fluctuate over time. | Some explanation of mental health as a continuum influenced by internal and external factors that can fluctuate over time. | Sound explanation of mental health as a continuum influenced by internal and external factors that can fluctuate over time. | Well-considered explanation of mental health as a continuum influenced by internal and external factors that can fluctuate over time. | Sophisticated analysis and explanation of mental health as a continuum influenced by internal and external factors that can fluctuate over time. |
| Very limited description of the management of risk factors and use of protective factors in the development, progression and management of mental health disorders. | Limited analysis and discussion of the management of risk factors and use of protective factors in the development, progression and management of mental health disorders. | Relevant analysis and discussion of the management of risk factors and use of protective factors in the development, progression and management of mental health disorders. | Well-articulated analysis and discussion of the management of risk factors and use of protective factors in the development, progression and management of mental health disorders. | Integrated and insightful analysis and discussion of the management of risk factors and use of protective factors in the development, progression and management of mental health disorders. |
| Very limited use of a biopsychosocial approach to explain the development and management of specific phobia. | Limited use of a biopsychosocial approach to explain the development and management of specific phobia. | Appropriate use of a biopsychosocial approach to explain the development and management of specific phobia. | Effective use of a biopsychosocial approach to explain the development and management of specific phobia. | Comprehensive use of a biopsychosocial approach to explain the development and management of specific phobia. |
| Very limited discussion of the psychological basis of strategies that contribute to mental well-being. | Limited discussion of the psychological basis of strategies that contribute to mental well-being. | Relevant discussion of the psychological basis of strategies that contribute to mental well-being. | Well-argued discussion of the psychological basis of strategies that contribute to mental well-being. | Insightful and integrated discussion of the psychological basis of strategies that contribute to mental well-being. |

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|  | Very limited understanding of the use of models in explaining psychological phenomena. | Limited understanding of the use of models in explaining psychological phenomena. | Satisfactory understanding of the usefulness and limitations of models in explaining psychological phenomena. | Thorough understanding of the usefulness and limitations of models in explaining psychological phenomena. | Sophisticated understanding of the usefulness and limitations of models in explaining psychological phenomena. |
| Very limited use of psychological terminology, representations, conventions and scientific data. | Some appropriate use of psychological terminology, representations, conventions and scientific data. | Satisfactory use of most psychological terminology, representations, conventions and scientific data. | Effective and appropriate use of psychological terminology, representations, conventions and scientific data. | Proficient, complete and appropriate use of psychological terminology, representations, conventions and scientific data. |

KEY to marking scale based on the outcome contributing 30 marks

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| Very Low 1–6 | Low 7–12 | Medium 13–18 | High 19–24 | Very High 25–30 |