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| **Just Google It** | |
| **University Transcript** | **Psychology** |
| **Subject Group** | **Group 3: Individuals and Societies** |
| **Overview** | Psychology – “Just Google it” explores the way in which we are changing in our interactions with others and in different situations.  The concept of “just google it” is developed from the fact we have a multitude of resources and information at the click of a button.  It begs the question do we actually need to interact with one another or know anything when we have the internet that has apparently all the answers?  This course has been designed with the intention of encouraging students to reflect on how technology has influenced our interactions with one another. Social technologies have broken the barriers of space and time, enabling us to interact 24/7 with more people than ever before.  But like any revolutionary concept, it has created a set of new barriers and threats.  Is the focus now communication *quantity* versus quality?  In an ironic twist, technology specifically social media has the potential to make us *less* social; a surrogate for the real thing.  For it to be a truly effective communication vehicle, all parties bear a responsibility to be genuine, accurate, and not allow it to replace human contact altogether. |
| **Future Learning** |  |
| **Student Experiences and Outcomes** | The course will allow the students to take on a critical approach and reflect on exactly how our behaviour has changed due to the ever increasing accessibility and availability of social technologies. From social media to apps and cyber bullying the course allows students to become aware of their own interactions and how they are influenced by such technologies.  Through the course several topics will be covered which aim to elicit discussion and reflection in regards to the overall course aims. Such topics as how technology has changed from past to present and how it will continue to evolve in the future will probe students and encourage them to think about society’s dependency and reliance of technology.  Key psychological theories such as Social Learning Theory and Social Identity Theory will be covered to help students explore social influences on behaviour.  Discussions into culture, political and global differences will also be discussed. Current issues from around the world will be at the forefront of classroom discussions with the intention of bringing it back to how technology has changed the world.  Further topics will encourage students to look at the specific use of social media and smartphones in building and breaking communication links. Finally students look at the impact of new phenomenons such as cyberbullying and electronic relationships. Students will complete the course by presenting an “apprentice” style idea in regards to what they believe the future will look like based on what they have learnt so far.  At all stages of the course students will take a leading role in the outcomes and direction of the discussions.  Students are encouraged to analyse how technologies influence interaction and think about the role varying factors such as social, cognitive and biological factors play in this. A focus on developing a capacity to identify, to analyse critically and to evaluate theories, concepts and arguments about the nature of these behaviours is done through questioning, debating and presenting within each lesson.  Students are also encouraged to contest, dispute and embrace uncertainty when reading research and theories. To know is to be able to doubt and when applying this to the influence that social media has on our self concept allows students to become reflective and thoughtful.  Students are encouraged to carry out their own research into how technology has influenced our interactions. Through this they are able to collect, describe and analyse data to test hypotheses and interpret complex data and source material. Students are allowed to use a variety of different data collection methods and encouraged to consider relevant ethical practices.  Students are encouraged to acknowledge the role and relevance of living in Hong Kong and how this can influence their own understanding of the strengths and limitations of technology. Emphasis in each lesson is on promoting awareness that human attitudes and opinions are widely diverse and that a study of society requires an appreciation of such diversity, especially when it comes to the use of technology.  Most importantly it is the aim for students to become more reflective over their own behaviours and how their own interactions have been influenced by the use of technology. They are encouraged to address these issues and reflections to promote positive change. |
| **Student Skills** | Key aims of the Individuals and Societies and Psychology faculty as well as key aspects of the IB learner profile are promoted in the “Just Google It” course through the following;   * Reflective –Students will be reflective about themselves and how they interact with others and how this has changed as a result of technology. * Principled – Students will be encouraged to understand the importance of technology and how it plays a role in our lifestyles * Risk-taker – Through projects and assignments will students will be encouraged to go out of their comfort zone and do something different. * Knowledge – Psychological Theories and research will allow the students to develop their knowledge and understanding of human behaviour * Open-minded – Students will be discussing sensitive issues about culture and cyber bullying which will require them to become open minded and objective. * Inquirer – Inquiry based and independent projects such as the research methods project will allow the students to become better inquirers. * Caring –Students will be given opportunities to look at different approaches to behaviour and develop their understanding human behaviour. * Communicator – Presentations and class discussions will allow students to develop their communication skills. * Balanced – Psychology is all about balance and understanding the different approaches and views of people. This is how students will be encouraged to become balanced. * Thinker – New ideas, how society has changed as a result of the advancements in technology and through class discussion students will be encouraged to thinking about what they know and how society is changing. This will be evident in the final project. |
| **Assessment** | Group projects and interactions will be a key part of the course along with independent and inquiry based learning activities.  Ongoing reflection on given tasks and the final project. |