

Curriculum Overview

Subject: Psychology

Year Group: 12

Teaching in year 12 will focus on paper 1, Introductory topics in Psychology and paper 2, Psychology in context. Students will be able to;

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of psychological concepts, theories, research studies, research methods and ethical issues in relation to the specified topics
- apply psychological knowledge and understanding of the content in a range of contexts, which will benefit students in everyday life as well as in preparation for assessments.
- demonstrate a confident understanding of research methods and apply these concepts to existing and hypothetical research studies. This is crucial for success in Psychology.
- analyse, interpret and evaluate psychological concepts, theories, research studies and research methods, building study skills to support them beyond the KS5 curriculum.
- evaluate therapies and treatments including in terms of their appropriateness and effectiveness, developing critical thinking and justification skills.

TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3
KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS Psychological approaches, including: • Learning approaches: the behaviourist approach and social learning theory • The cognitive approach and the emergence of cognitive neuroscience. • The biological approach • The psychodynamic approach • Humanistic Psychology and the influence on counselling Psychology. Research methods, including: • Types of experiment. • Scientific processes. • Ethics. • The role of peer review in the scientific process. • The implications of psychological research for the economy. • Reliability and validity • Features of science • Reporting psychological investigations.	KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS Memory, including; • The multi-store model of memory. Features of each store: coding, capacity and duration. • Types of long-term memory: episodic, semantic, procedural. • The working memory model. Features of the model: coding and capacity. • Explanations for forgetting. • Factors affecting the accuracy of eyewitness testimony • The use of the cognitive interview. Research Methods, including • The sign test • Probability and significance. • Factors affecting the choice of statistical test,	KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS Psychopathology, including; • Definitions of abnormality. • The characteristics of phobias, depression and obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD). • The behavioural approach to explaining and treating phobias • The cognitive approach to explaining and treating depression. • The biological approach to explaining and treating OCD. Biopsychology, including; • The divisions of the nervous system. • The structure and function of sensory, relay and motor neurons. The process of synaptic transmission. • The endocrine system: glands and hormones. • The fight or flight response including the role of adrenaline. • Localisation of function.

• Data handling and analysis Social Influence, including; • Types of conformity. • Explanations for obedience. • Dispositional explanation for obedience: • Explanations of resistance to social influence. • Minority influence.	Attachment, including; • Animal studies of attachment. • Explanations of attachment. • Ainsworth's 'Strange Situation'. • Bowlby's theory of maternal deprivation.. • The influence of early attachment on childhood and adult relationships. Exam skills; During this term there is a series of lessons exploring revision and exam skills; • Spaced learning techniques • Effective revision techniques	• Ways of studying the brain. Exam skills; During this term there are two sets of DIRT lessons reflecting on the full exam papers that have been completed. 4 full lessons in addition to the half lessons following essay completion.
KEY ASSESSMENTS In addition to extended writing answers completed weekly; Half Term 1 Approaches topic test. Half Term 2 Research methods topic test	KEY ASSESSMENTS In addition to extended writing answers completed weekly; Half Term 1 Social Influence topic test Memory topic test. Half Term 2 Attachment topic test. PPE – Paper 2 with social influence in place of biopsychology which has not yet been taught.	KEY ASSESSMENTS In addition to extended writing answers completed weekly; Half Term 1 Psychopathology topic test Half Term 2 Biopsychology topic test Paper 1 practice – students sit a full paper 1 in class, in exam timings and conditions.
Extended reading suggestions and external resources: The tutor2u website has content and exam practice for all topics https://www.tutor2u.net/psychology The Psych Boost YouTube channel is useful for revision https://www.youtube.com/@PsychBoost Psychology Review magazine – available in the study room. Lawton and Willard, AQA A Level Psychology – our main textbook, copies available in PS1 and the study room. Cardwell and Flanagan, Psychology A Level; The Complete Companion – books available in PS1 and the study room. There is a wide range of wider reading available in the study room library.		

Curriculum Overview

Subject: Psychology

Year Group: 13

Teaching in year 13 will focus on Paper 3, Issues and debates in Psychology. Students will be able to;

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of psychological concepts, theories, research studies, research methods and ethical issues in relation to the synoptic topics, drawing on their learning from year 12 to develop their understanding.
- apply psychological knowledge and understanding in a range of contexts, developing skills for life as well as the assessment.
- analyse, interpret and evaluate psychological concepts, theories, research studies and research methods, building study skills to support them beyond the KS5 curriculum.
- evaluate therapies and treatments including in terms of their appropriateness and effectiveness.
- plan and organise their own revision practice, identifying their personal strengths and weaknesses, developing skills to support them beyond the KS5 curriculum.

TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3
KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS Issues and Debates, including; • Gender and culture in Psychology. • Free will and determinism • The nature-nurture debate. • Holism and reductionism. • Idiographic and nomothetic approaches. • Ethical implications of research studies and theory. • Comparing the Psychological approaches using Issues and Debates. Cognition and Development, including; • Piaget's theory of cognitive development. • Vygotsky's theory of cognitive development. • Baillargeon's explanation of early infant abilities. • The development of social cognition. Schizophrenia, including; • Classification of schizophrenia. • Biological explanations for schizophrenia.	KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS Schizophrenia, including; • Drug therapy. • Cognitive behaviour therapy and family therapy. • The interactionist approach Forensic Psychology, including; • Offender profiling. • Biological explanations of offending behaviour. • Psychological explanations of offending behaviour. • Dealing with offending behaviour:	KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS This term we work to a bespoke revision plan created with the class, drawing from the QLA/PLC.

Psychological explanations for schizophrenia.		
KEY ASSESSMENTS In addition to extended writing answers completed weekly; Half Term 1 PPEs – Paper 1 and Paper 2 Half Term 2 Cognition and Development topic test.	KEY ASSESSMENTS In addition to extended writing answers completed weekly; Half Term 1 Schizophrenia topic test. PPEs – Paper 1, Paper 2, Paper 3 Half Term 2 Forensic Psychology topic test.	KEY ASSESSMENTS Half Term 1 Full paper 3 completed in class under exam conditions.
Extended reading suggestions and external resources: The tutor2u website has content and exam practice for all topics https://www.tutor2u.net/psychology The Psych Boost YouTube channel is useful for revision https://www.youtube.com/@PsychBoost Psychology Review magazine – available in the study room. Lawton and Willard, AQA A Level Psychology – our main textbook, copies available in PS1 and the study room. Cardwell and Flanagan, Psychology A Level; The Complete Companion – books available in PS1 and the study room. There is a variety of wider reading available in the study room library.		