

KS5 Long Term Curriculum Plan: Psychology/Year 13 2025-26

Curriculum Aim:
 In Psychology we aim to develop students' knowledge and understanding of psychological concepts, theories, research studies and ethical issues in relation to a range of topics as well as different psychological research methods, scientific processes and techniques of data. Students will develop an ability to analyse and interpret data including choosing and using inferential statistics to determine significance. Students will learn the fundamentals of Psychology and develop skills valued by Higher Education (HE) and employers, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research. [Exam Specification - AQA Psychology \(7182\)](#) (please note specification changes from Sept 2025)

Link to prior learning:
 The Year 12 topics provide a foundation of core knowledge relevant to areas of the Year 13 course. Research Methods is taught in Year 12 and remaining topics, including inferential statistics, are completed in Year 13. for 2025, the issues and debates topic will be delivered in the Autumn Term alongside completion and comparison of approaches.

Rationale of sequencing:
 Each topic area focuses on building knowledge and understanding of psychological concepts, theories, research studies, research methods and ethical issues across a range of topics as well as building skills of application, analysis, interpretation and evaluation. Students develop their study of the psychological approaches through the new topic of Biopsychology and their study of psychopathology in the Schizophrenia topic. Aggression and Cognition and Development complete the course of study and allow students to apply psychological knowledge and understanding to specific contexts in these fields. Retrieval practice is used every lesson and in homework tasks to secure knowledge in long term memory and ensure learning over time due to enable students to manage the content required to be learnt on a two year linear course.

	Focus / Topics	Knowledge & Skills	Assessment
Autumn	I&D/Approaches Biopsychology Research methods	<p>Students will develop knowledge and understanding and be able to evaluate the following approaches, issues and options topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic assumptions of the humanistic approach and psychodynamic approach. Gender and cultural bias, free will and determinism, nature-nurture debate, holism and reductionism, idiographic and nomothetic approaches and ethical implications of psychological research studies and theory. Comparison of approaches. <p>Students will develop knowledge and understanding and be able to evaluate the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The nervous and endocrine systems and fight and flight (revision), the structure and function of neurons (revision), ways of studying the brain, hemispheric lateralisation, plasticity and localisation of function. <p>Students will continue to develop knowledge and understanding of research methods, practical research skills and mathematical skills through the following areas of study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reliability and validity, content analysis, case studies, inferential testing, reporting on psychological investigations and features of science. 	Autumn PPE - 2x past papers - paper 1 and 2
Spring	Schizophrenia Aggression Cognition and Development	<p>Students will develop knowledge and understanding and be able to evaluate the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to schizophrenia and issues in diagnosis, biological and psychological explanations of schizophrenia and associated therapies, management of schizophrenia and the interactionist approach. Neural and hormonal mechanisms in aggression, biological and psychological explanations of aggression, institutional aggression and media influences on aggression. Piaget and Vygotsky's theories of cognitive development, Baillargeon's explanation of early infant abilities and the development of social cognition (Selman, Baron-Cohen, Mirror Neuron Theory). 	Spring PPE - 2x past papers to include paper 3
Summer	Exam skills and Exam season	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using retrieval practice strategies students will apply their knowledge and understanding of each topic to a range of practice exam questions. This will further develop and consolidate exam skills such as interpreting exam questions, writing essays and answering application questions. 	Summer public exams: Paper 1 - 7182/1 (2hrs) Paper 2 - 7182/2 (2hrs) Paper 3 - 7182/3 (2hrs)