

KS5 Long Term Curriculum Plan: Psychology/Year 12 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 carry out ethical practical research activities, involving designing and conducting research and analysing and interpreting data. 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:

Psychology is a new subject only offered in the Sixth Form. It builds on skills developed in the sciences and humanities as well as GCSE Mathematics.

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 study three topics simultaneously with the research methods topic being delivered throughout the year alongside the introductory topics and psychology in context topics. This helps to introduce students to psychological terminology, concepts and scientific processes such as experimentation in memory and theories of human behaviour in social influence. This prepares students well for studying psychological approaches, attachment and psychopathology in the Spring term. Retrieval practice is used every lesson and in homework tasks to secure knowledge in long term memory and ensure learning over time due to this being a two year linear course.

| | Focus / Topic | Knowledge & Skills | Assessment |
|--------|--|--|---|
| Autumn | Memory Social Influence Research Methods | Students will develop knowledge and understanding and be able to evaluate the following introductory topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conformity and obedience (Asch and Milgram), resistance to social influence and minority influence. Memory models (Multi-Store Model and Working Memory Model), explanations for forgetting and Eyewitness Testimony. Students will develop knowledge and understanding of research methods, practical research skills and mathematical skills through the following areas of study: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experimental method and correlations. Scientific processes, including sampling and ethical issues, and data handling and analysis. Designing and conducting research using experimental and correlational methods and analysing and interpreting data collected, mathematical content and statistical testing (Sign Test). | Year 12 Assessment week - past paper questions on Memory and Social Influence |
| Spring | Attachment Clinical Psychology and Mental Health Approaches Research methods continued | Students will develop knowledge and understanding and be able to evaluate the following psychology in context topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explanations of attachment and the influence of early attachment on development and childhood and adult relationships. Definitions in the field of mental health, characteristics and explanations of phobias, depression and obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), therapies and treatments of each disorder in terms of their appropriateness and effectiveness. Basic assumptions of the Learning approaches, the cognitive approach and the biological approach, humanistic approach and psychodynamic approach. Research Methods: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self-report technique and observational techniques. Scientific processes and data handling and analysis. Designing and conducting research using self-report and observational methods and analysing and interpreting data collected. Peer review, implications of Psychology for the economy. | Year 12 Assessment week - past paper questions on taught sub-topics |
| Summer | Issues and Debates Yr12 Independent Research Projects | Students will develop knowledge and understanding and be able to evaluate the following issues and options topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Research Methods: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethical practical research task - designing and conducting research and analysing and interpreting data. | Year 12 EoY Exams - Introductory Topics in psychology (paper 1) & part of Paper 2 - approaches/RMs |

