

KS5 Long Term Curriculum Plan: Psychology/Year 13 2026-27

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 2026)

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.

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 clinical psychology in the Schizophrenia topic. Aggression and Cognition and Development topics 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	Students will complete their study of Issues and Debates and Approaches from Year 12 with the following topics: - Gender and cultural bias, social sensitivity in psychological research and comparison of approaches. Students will develop knowledge and understanding and be able to evaluate the following topics: - The divisions of the nervous system, the structure and function of neurons, the process of synaptic transmission and the function of the endocrine system. The role of fight and flight and adrenaline. Localisation of function in the brain, hemispheric lateralisation, plasticity and functional recovery. Ways of studying the brain including FMRI and post-mortem examinations. Students will continue to develop knowledge and understanding of research methods, practical research skills and mathematical skills through the following areas of study: - Reliability and validity, content analysis, case studies, inferential testing, reporting on psychological investigations and features of science.	Autumn PPE - two past papers - paper 1 and 2 content
Spring	- Schizophrenia - Aggression - Cognition and Development	Students will develop knowledge and understanding and be able to evaluate the following topics: - Introduction to schizophrenia, positive and negative symptoms and issues with diagnosis. Biological and psychological explanations of schizophrenia and associated therapies 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 - two past papers to include paper 3
Summer	Exam skills and Exam season	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)