

KS5 Long Term Curriculum Plan: Psychology/Year 12 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 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 for students, 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: - 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: - Experimental method and correlations. Scientific processes, including sampling and ethical issues, data handling and analysis. Designing and conducting research using experimental and correlational methods. Analysing and interpreting data collected and writing a psychological report.	Year 12 assessment fortnight - past paper questions including Research methods
Spring	- Attachment - Clinical Psychology & Mental Health - Approaches with Issues and Debates - Research Methods	Students will develop knowledge and understanding and be able to evaluate the following psychology in context topics: - 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. Plus the following debates - free will and determinism, nature-nurture debate, holism and reductionism, idiographic and nomothetic approaches to psychological research. Research Methods: - Mathematical content and statistical testing (Sign Test). Self-report technique and observational techniques, plus relevant scientific processes, data handling and analysis. Designing and conducting research using self-report and/or observational methods and analysing and interpreting data collected. Peer review, implications of Psychology for the economy.	Year 12 assessment fortnight - past paper questions including Research methods
Summer	Approaches and Issues & Debates cont	Students will develop knowledge and understanding and be able to evaluate the following issues and options topics: - Evaluation of approaches in psychology. - Gender and cultural bias and social sensitivity in psychological research. Comparison of approaches. Issues and Debates essay writing.	EoY Exams - Introductory Topics in psychology (paper 1) & taught content from paper 2 and 3 including Approaches/RMs