

# KS5 Long Term Curriculum Plan: Psychology/Year 13 2023-24

## 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.

## Link to prior learning:

Psychology builds on skills developed in the sciences and humanities as well as GCSE Mathematics. Students are taught introductory topics and psychology in context topics in Year 12. The Issues and Debates topic is taught in the Summer term to prepare for their study in Year 13 which involves using issues and debates in their evaluation.

## 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**. The issues and debates topic is taught in Autumn 1 to enable students to develop evaluation skills through reference to issues and debates, which enables them to write effective 16 mark exam questions. Students continue their study of research methods and approaches, through Biopsychology, which leads on from their learning in Summer 2 of Year 12. 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 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issues and Debates*</li> <li>Biopsychology</li> <li>Research methods</li> </ul>	<p>Students will develop knowledge and understanding and be able to evaluate the following issues and options topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gender and cultural bias, free will and determinism, nature-nurture debate, holism and reductionism, idiographic and nomothetic approaches and ethical implications of psychological research and theory. Comparison of approaches.</li> <li>The nervous and endocrine systems, the structure and function of neurons, fight and flight, localisation of function, ways of studying the brain and biological rhythms.</li> </ul> <p>Students will 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"> <li>Completion of yr12 content (correlations, self-report, observation &amp; research issues) plus additional Y13 content for research methods including content analysis, case studies, inferential testing, reporting on psychological investigations and features of science.</li> </ul>	Year 13 Assessment week October 2023 - 2x24 mark sections on Issues & Debates and Approaches
	*Students usually cover Issues and Debates in Yr12 Summer term but this has been moved to Year 13 Autumn term for this year only to make up for timing issues last year. Schizophrenia has been moved to Spring term but may be started earlier if time allows.		
Spring 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schizophrenia</li> <li>Aggression</li> <li>Cognition and Development</li> </ul>	<p>Students will develop knowledge and understanding and be able to evaluate the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction to schizophrenia, biological explanations of schizophrenia, psychological explanations for schizophrenia, biological therapy for schizophrenia, psychological therapy for schizophrenia, management of schizophrenia, the interactionist approach to schizophrenia.</li> <li>Neural and hormonal mechanisms in aggression, biological and psychological explanations of aggression, institutional aggression and media influences on aggression.</li> </ul>	Post 16 Mock exams - Jan 2024 (2x 96 mark papers)
Spring 2			

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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).</li> </ul>	
Summer 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summer 1 - exam skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<b>Summer public exams</b>
Summer 2		<b>Public exams (students on study leave)</b>	

#### Further Information

Exam Specification - AQA Psychology (7181/7182) - <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/as-and-a-level>

Final exams consist of three 2 hour papers of all content covered in years 12 and 13 (at the end of Yr13 - Summer public exams).

Adjustments to the curriculum have been made for 2021-22 cohort due to Covid recovery.