

KS5 Long Term Curriculum Plan: Psychology/Year 12 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 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.

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 1	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 social change. Memory models (Multi-Store Model and Working Memory Model), long term memory, explanations for forgetting and Eyewitness Testimony (EWT). 	Year 12 Assessment week - 2x 24 mark sections from paper 1 (Memory and Social Influence)
Autumn 2		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. 	
Spring 1	Attachment Psychopathology 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"> Caregiver-infant interactions, explanations of attachment and the influence of early attachment on development and childhood and adult relationships. Application of knowledge and understanding through the Egg Babies project. Definitions of abnormality, characteristics and explanations of phobias, depression and obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), therapies and treatments of each disorder in terms of their appropriateness and effectiveness. Origins of Psychology, basic assumptions of the Learning approaches, the cognitive approach and the biological approach, Humanistic Approach and Psychodynamic Approach. 	Year 12 Assessment week - Exam questions on taught sub-topics

		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"> 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. 	
Summer 1	Issues and Debates (A2 content) Research Methods continued	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 and theory. Comparison of approaches. 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"> Peer review, implications of Psychology for the economy, mathematical content and statistical testing. 	
Summer 2	Issues and Debates continued Plus Yr12 Independent Research Projects	Students will develop knowledge and understanding of research methods, practical research skills and mathematical skills by conducting small scale research projects in groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethical practical research task - designing and conducting research and analysing and interpreting data. 	EOY exams - June 2024 (2x 96 mark papers - Papers 1&2)

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).