

Curriculum Overview

Teaching in year 12 will focus on paper 1, Introductory topics in Psychology and paper 2, Psychology in context. Students will be able to;

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of psychological concepts, theories, research studies, research methods and ethical issues in relation to the specified topics
- apply psychological knowledge and understanding of the content in a range of contexts, which will benefit students in everyday life as well as in preparation for assessments.
- demonstrate a confident understanding of research methods and apply these concepts to existing and hypothetical research studies. This is crucial for success in Psychology.
- analyse, interpret and evaluate psychological concepts, theories, research studies and research methods, building study skills to support them beyond the KS5 curriculum.
- evaluate therapies and treatments including in terms of their appropriateness and effectiveness, developing critical thinking and justification skills.

TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3
<p>KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS</p> <p>Psychological approaches, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning approaches: the behaviourist approach and social learning theory • The cognitive approach and the emergence of cognitive neuroscience. • The biological approach • The psychodynamic approach • Humanistic Psychology and the influence on counselling Psychology. <p>Research methods, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of experiment and Scientific processes. • Ethics. • The role of peer review in the scientific process. • The implications of psychological research for the economy. • Reliability and validity and Features of science • Reporting psychological investigations. • Data handling and analysis. • Descriptive statistics and Distribution. 	<p>KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS</p> <p>Memory, including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The multi-store model of memory. • Types of long-term memory. • The working memory model. • Explanations for forgetting. • Factors affecting the accuracy of eyewitness testimony • Improving the accuracy of eyewitness testimony. <p>Research Methods, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sign test • Probability and significance. • Factors affecting the choice of statistical test. <p>Attachment, including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caregiver-infant interactions in humans. 	<p>KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS</p> <p>Psychopathology, including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definitions of abnormality. • The characteristics of phobias, depression and obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD). • The behavioural approach to explaining and treating phobias • The cognitive approach to explaining and treating depression. • The biological approach to explaining and treating OCD. <p>Biopsychology, including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nervous system. • The structure and function of sensory, relay and motor neurons. • The function of the endocrine system. • The fight or flight response. • Localisation of function in the brain and hemispheric lateralisation. • Ways of studying the brain.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis and interpretation of correlation. • Levels of measurement. • Content analysis and coding. Thematic analysis. <p>Social Influence, including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of conformity. • Conformity to social roles as investigated by Zimbardo. • Explanations for obedience. • Dispositional explanation for obedience: • Explanations of resistance to social influence. • Minority influence including reference to consistency, commitment and flexibility. • The role of social influence processes in social change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stages of attachment identified by Schaffer. • Animal studies of attachment. • Explanations of attachment. • Ainsworth's 'Strange Situation'. • Bowlby's theory of maternal deprivation. • The influence of early attachment on childhood and adult relationships. <p>Exam skills; During this term there is a series of lessons exploring revision and exam skills;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spaced learning techniques • Effective revision techniques 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological rhythms. <p>Exam skills; During this term there are two sets of DIRT lessons reflecting on the full exam papers that have been completed. 4 full lessons in addition to the half lessons following essay completion.</p>
<p>KEY ASSESSMENTS</p> <p>In addition to extended writing answers completed weekly; Half Term 1 Approaches topic test – taken from a past exam paper and completed under exam conditions.</p> <p>Half Term 2 Research methods topic test – taken from a past exam paper and completed under exam conditions.</p>	<p>KEY ASSESSMENTS</p> <p>In addition to extended writing answers completed weekly; Half Term 1 Social Influence topic test – taken from a past exam paper and completed under exam conditions. Memory topic test – taken from a past exam paper and completed under exam conditions.</p> <p>Half Term 2 Attachment topic test – taken from a past exam paper and completed in 40 minutes under exam conditions. PPE – Paper 2 with social influence in place of biopsychology which has not yet been taught.</p>	<p>KEY ASSESSMENTS</p> <p>In addition to extended writing answers completed weekly; Half Term 1 Psychopathology topic test – taken from a past exam paper and completed under exam conditions.</p> <p>Half Term 2 Biopsychology topic test – taken from a past exam paper and completed under exam conditions. Paper 1 practice – students sit a full paper 1 in class, in exam timings and conditions.</p>
<p>Extended reading suggestions and external resources: The tutor2u website has content and exam practice for all topics https://www.tutor2u.net/psychology The Psych Boost YouTube channel is useful for revision https://www.youtube.com/@PsychBoost Psychology Review magazine – available in the study room. Lawton and Willard, AQA A Level Psychology – our main textbook, copies available in PS1 and the study room. Cardwell and Flanagan, Psychology A Level; The Complete Companion – books available in PS1 and the study room. There is a wide range of wider reading available in the study room library.</p>		