



Psychology department curriculum intent

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Department curriculum intent:

Psychology is a popular subject, which is attractive to students because it develops a range of valuable skills, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research. These skills are particularly relevant to young people and are transferable to further study and the workplace.

Our primary goal is to prepare students for successful entry in the AQA A Level Psychology qualification; in doing so we also hope that they will develop a greater awareness of themselves and the world around them. By the end of the course, it is our aim that students will be able to:

- Demonstrate accurate and detailed knowledge of a range of scientific ideas, processes, techniques and procedures; learning to organise and present information clearly, using appropriate scientific terminology
- Analyse, interpret and evaluate relevant scientific information, ideas and evidence effectively and critically, to make appropriate judgements and draw sound conclusions

This is achieved through the study of the following content:

Year 12 Compulsory Units:

- 1 Social influence
- 2 Memory
- 3 Attachment
- 4 Psychopathology
- 5 Approaches in Psychology
- 6 Biopsychology
- 7 Research methods

In year 13 there is one compulsory Unit of Study; Issues and Debates in Psychology. This is followed by 3 optional units, these are chosen to allow development and greater depth of study of some of the elements covered in Year 12 and because, of the options available they are consistently identified by the students themselves as they areas of greatest interest:

- Schizophrenia – which develops some of the concepts, ideas and theories covered in Psychopathology (Year 12)
- Relationships – which develops knowledge and understanding of Social Psychology
- Forensic Psychology – which look at real world practical applications of many of the theoretical ideas first covered in Year 12

Psychology links well with a diverse range of other qualifications and the specific study of topics like memory can help them to become more efficient and effective learners across all of their academic studies.



Year 12

Overall curriculum intent for year 12: To prepare students with the knowledge, understanding and skills necessary to successfully complete AQA A level Psychology Papers 1 and 2. By the end of Year 12, students will have developed knowledge and understanding of a range of Psychology topics including; Research methods and the ethics of research; Social influence including conformity and obedience; human memory, how it works and why sometimes it doesn't; how infant attachments are formed and the influence they have on later life; and psychopathology, including theories concerning the causes of a range of mental health issues and the treatments that arise from them.

	Half term 1	Half term 2	Half term 3	Half term 4	Half term 5	Half term 6
Intent for the half term	Research Methods in Psychology	Social Influence	Memory	Attachment	Psychopathology	Approaches and Biopsychology
Content mapping	Experiments, Observations and self-report techniques. Ethics and Sampling	Conformity, obedience, minority Influence and Social Change	Models of memory, reasons for forgetting and Eyewitness testimony	Explanations of attachment, cultural variations, maternal deprivation and institutionalisation	Definitions of abnormality, Phobias, Depression and OCD	Behaviourism, SLT, Cognitive, Biopsychology, Psychodynamic and Humanistic
Assessment mapping	Completion of Independent work booklet. Excerpt from exam paper.	Essay writing and end of unit assessment	Essay writing and end of unit assessment	Completion of Independent work booklet containing a range of exam style questions	Paper 1 mock exam	Paper 2 mock exam
Personal development mapping	Independence and study skills	Resisting peer pressure	Developing more efficient learning and revision techniques	Independence and study skills	Focus on development of empathy	Development of synoptic skills
Literacy focus for the half term	Reading and understanding information relating to scientific research. Understanding psychological terminology. Structuring answers to application questions	Reading and understanding information relating to scientific theory and interpreting evidence. Understanding psychological terminology. Essay writing in Psychology	Increasing breadth of reading through research of theories, evidence and scientific modelling. Increasing breadth of key psychological terminology. Writing application essays	Increasing breadth of reading through research of theories, evidence and scientific modelling. Increasing breadth of key psychological terminology Meeting demands of shorter response exam questions	Increasing breadth of reading through research of theories, evidence and scientific modelling. Increasing breadth of key psychological terminology Improving essay technique	Increasing breadth of reading through research of theories, evidence and scientific modelling. Increasing breadth of key psychological terminology Structuring complex comparisons
Numeracy links	Percentages, ratios, statistical testing,	Data Analysis	Collecting and plotting data	Data analysis, controlled observations and	Data Analysis	Inferential testing



	data handling and presentation			cross-cultural research		
Cross-curricular links to other subjects	Sciences and Geography	History	Links to all academic studies that require revision.	Evolutionary biology	Biology: genetics and neurotransmitters	Biology
Careers	Promotion of independent learning and self-motivation	Enhanced literacy and independent learning	Practical Research skills	Childcare	Links to medicine and pharmacology	
Support for all	Structured workbook with exemplar model answers	Detailed modelling of literacy requirements	Structured workbook with exemplar model answers	Structured workbook with exemplar model answers	Support with key vocabulary	Detailed modelling of literacy requirements
Challenge ideas	Independent research opportunities	Independent research opportunities	Conducting and reporting practical investigation	Application of research knowledge to novel material	Focus on use of technical vocabulary to meet demands of top grades	Developing synoptic skills



Year 13

Overall curriculum intent for year 13: Throughout Year 13, students will continue to develop their skills through in depth study of Issues and debate in Psychology; a study of Schizophrenia including issues surrounding both its diagnosis and treatment; a study on human relationships including formation, maintenance and breakdown; and an examination of the application of psychological theory and practice in the real world through Forensic psychology.					
	Half term 1	Half term 2	Half term 3	Half term 4	Half term 5
Intent for the half term	Issues and Debates	Schizophrenia	Relationships	Forensics	Revision
Content mapping	Gender/Culture bias, free will v determinism, nature v nurture, reductionism, determinism.	Diagnosis and classification of Schizophrenia, explanations and treatments	Factors affecting attraction, theories of maintenance and breakdown in romantic relationships. Virtual and parasocial relationships	Measuring crime, offender profiling, explanations of offending behaviour, dealing with offending behaviour	Review of Year 13
Assessment mapping	Timed essays	Independent workbook	Essay writing and end of topic test Mock exams	Paper 3 mock exam	Practice exam papers
Personal development mapping	Developing synoptic skills	Empathy and understanding for those suffering from severe mental illness	Self-reflection, safe use of social media and mental health	Anger management techniques	Revision techniques
Literacy focus for the half term	Reading for independent research Writing synoptic essays	Extended reading of Case Study material and diagnostic manuals Enhanced essay writing	Exam/revision skills	Exam/revision skills	Meeting demands of all exam questions
Numeracy links	Data analysis, application of statistical tests	Analysis of data from drug trials	Data analysis, application of statistical tests	Data analysis, application of statistical tests	As previous
Cross-curricular links to other subjects	Ethics of research in sciences, statistics	Biology: Genetics and neural correlates	Social demography - geography	Genetic and neural explanations - Biology	
Careers		Medicine, Psychiatry, encounter with visiting researcher	Relationships counselling	Application of psychology in the justice system	
Support for all	Throughout Year 13 a Psychology “drop in” clinic, operates weekly after school offering tailored support to individual student needs.				
Challenge ideas	Application of synoptic skills to novel material	Maximising AO3 marks through effective evaluation	Maximising performance under exam conditions	Maximising performance under exam conditions	