

Year 12 Psychology

The curriculum has been planned in line with the AQA AS/A-level Psychology specification.

In Year 12, students are taught 2 lessons a week on the approaches in psychology and 2 lessons a week on research methods to begin with from the AS specification (paper 2). These topics have been chosen as they are the foundations of psychology upon which theories of human behaviour and psychology research are built. By covering these topics first, it equips students with the psychological research skills and knowledge needed to cover the contextualised topics: psychopathology, attachment, memory and social influence. Covering paper 2 and then paper 1 also allows for opportunities to further deepen and secure students knowledge of the subject throughout both years of the course. e.g. Approaches are covered in the first term and then revisited at several points throughout the year when looking at psychopathology and attachment. Research methods is covered in the first term and then revisited in memory and social influence. These skills are then deepened in the Summer term when covering the A-level specification content.

Methods of deepening and securing knowledge:	
Spaced practice	Research methods and approaches are reviewed throughout the year when used in context while covering psychological research and theories.
Retrieval practice	Starters at the beginning of lessons, knowledge checks and end-of-topic assessments.
Elaboration	Class discussion, verbal analysis and reflection on assessments.
Interleaving	Opportunities are given consistently throughout the year.
Concrete examples	e.g. Approaches covered in the Autumn term and revisited in the Spring term. Research methods covered in the Autumn term and revisited in the Spring and Summer term.

	Autumn term 1	Autumn term 2	Spring term 1	Spring term 2	Summer term 1	Summer term 2
Topic(s)	Origins of psychology - Wundt and introspection - Emergence of psychology as a Science Learning approaches - The behaviourist approach	Biopsychology - Sensory, relay and motor neurons, the process of synaptic transmission - The function of the endocrine system - Glands and hormones	Attachment - Caregiver-infant interactions in humans - Stages of attachment - Multiple attachments and the role of the father - Animal studies of attachment	Memory - The multi-store model of memory - The working memory model - Types of long-term memory - Explanations for forgetting - Factors affecting the accuracy of	Social influence - Explanations for obedience - Situational variables affecting obedience - Dispositional explanation for obedience - Explanations of resistance to social influence	A-level research methods - Practical project - Content analysis - Thematic analysis - Case studies - Reliability across all methods of investigation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengths and weaknesses of behaviourist approach -The social learning theory - Strengths and weaknesses of the social learning theory <p>Cognitive approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The cognitive approach -Strengths and weaknesses of the cognitive approach <p>Biological approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The influence of genes, biological structures and neurochemistry on behaviour - Genotype and phenotype, genetic basis of behaviour and evolution -Strengths and weaknesses of the biological approach 	<p>Research Method</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The role of the British Psychological Society's code of ethics - Pilot studies and the aims of piloting - The implications of psychological research for the economy -The role of peer review in the scientific process - The distinction between qualitative and quantitative data collection techniques - Presentation and display of quantitative data - Measures of central tendency - Normal and skewed distributions - The sign test - When to use the sign test; calculation of the sign test - Mathematical skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explanations of attachment: learning theory and Bowlby's monotropic theory - Ainsworth's 'Strange Situation' - Types of attachment - Cultural variations in attachment - Bowlby's theory of maternal deprivation - The influence of early attachment on childhood and adult relationships - Romanian orphan studies - Effects of institutionalisation - Attachment review <p>Memory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Features of memory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> eyewitness testimony - Improving the accuracy of eyewitness testimony - Knowledge check - Memory review and assessment <p>Social influence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Types of conformity - Explanations for conformity - Variables affecting conformity - Conformity to social roles - Knowledge check on conformity - Milgram 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Knowledge check - Minority influence - The role of social influence processes in social change - Paper 1 and Paper 2 review <p>PPE WEEK</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Types of validity across all methods of investigation - Features of science - Reporting psychological investigations - Levels of measurement - Probability and significance: - Factors affecting the choice of statistical test - When to use statistical tests
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	<p>Research Methods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Difference between aim and hypothesis - Sampling: the difference between population and sample; implications of sampling techniques, including bias and generalisation - Types of experiments - Experimental design - Demand characteristics and investigator effects - Variables: manipulation and control of variables - Self-report techniques and construction - Correlations - Analysis of the relationship between co-variables - Observational techniques - Observational design 	<p>Psychopathology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Definitions of abnormality - Characteristics of OCD - OCD: genetic and neural explanations - Drug therapy - Characteristics of depression - Beck's negative triad and Ellis's ABC model - Cognitive behaviour therapy (CBT) - Characteristics of phobias - The two-process model of phobias - Systematic desensitisation and flooding - Paper 2 review 				
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	Biopsychology - The divisions of the nervous system - The fight or flight response including the role of adrenaline					
Assessment	Approaches - End-of-topic assessment and research methods mid-topic assessment (past exam paper) - Knowledge check on each approach	Biopsychology assessment - Research methods end-of-topic assessment (past exam paper) - Psychopathology end of topic assessment (past exam paper)	Attachment - End-of-topic assessment (past exam paper)	Memory - End-of-topic assessment (past exam paper)	- AS paper 1 and paper 2	- Knowledge check on A-level RM

Independent Learning:

Independent learning is a core part of learning and serves to support the learning in class, enrich the student experience and develop psychological knowledge and skills. Independent learning is centred around reinforcing prior learning through tasks such as revision notes, completion of knowledge checks and examination technique. It is crucial that such tasks are completed as it allows students to show off what they know and also prepare for assessment allowing teachers and students to see their progress.