



Year 13 Psychology

The curriculum has been designed to follow on from the skills and knowledge developed in Year 1 of the course in order to allow students to deepen and expand their psychological knowledge in line with AQA A-level Psychology specification. Issues and Debates (paper 3) are covered first as this helps develop students critical analysis skills and meet the demands of the greater emphasis on evaluative skills in Year 2. This also provides the opportunity to revisit topics covered in Year 1 deepening and securing knowledge. Biopsychology and approaches are topped up to complete paper two in the Autumn term now that students have a more comprehensive understanding of research methods and also more effective evaluative skills. In the Spring and Summer term emphasis is placed on Paper 3 topics. By covering Paper 2 and Paper 1 first this gives a good grounding for students to move more successfully through Paper 3 topics which focus on key areas of human behaviour in more depth with greater theoretical and research analysis needed.

Methods of deepening and securing knowledge:	
Spaced practice	Research methods and approaches are reviewed throughout the year when used in the context of actual psychological research and theories.
Retrieval practice	Start of lesson, knowledge checks, Independent learning/independent study tasks and assessments.
Elaboration	Class discussion, verbal analysis and reflection on assessment (green pen).
Interleaving	Topics from Year 1 are revisited throughout Year 2 when covering paper 3 and paper 2 top up.
Concrete examples	E.g. Biological approach (genetics and neurochemistry) is revisited in the biological explanations for schizophrenia and forensic psychology.

	Autumn term 1	Autumn term 2	Spring term 1	Spring term 2	Summer term 1	Summer term 2
Topic(s)	Issues and debates - The nature-nurture debate - Free will and determinism - Holism and reductionism - Idiographic and nomothetic approaches	Biopsychology - Localisation of function in the brain - Hemispheric lateralisation - Plasticity and functional recovery of the brain after trauma - Split brain research	PPE Revision PPE Week Forensic Psychology - Offender profiling - Biological explanations of offending behaviour - Eysenck's theory of the criminal personality	Forensic Psychology - The aims of custodial sentencing and the psychological effects - Recidivism - Anger management and restorative justice programmes	Paper 1-3 revision	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gender and culture in Psychology - Ethical implications of research studies and theory <p>Approaches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The psychodynamic approach - Humanistic Psychology - Comparison of approaches <p>Biopsychology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AS-level biopsychology review - Biological rhythms: circadian - The effect of endogenous pacemakers and exogenous zeitgebers - Infradian and ultradian rhythms - Ways of studying the brain 	<p>Schizophrenia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Classification of schizophrenia and symptoms - Reliability and validity in diagnosis and classification of schizophrenia - Biological explanations for schizophrenia - Psychological explanations for schizophrenia - Drug therapy - Cognitive behaviour therapy and family therapy - Token economies - The importance of an interactionist approach in explaining and treating schizophrenia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cognitive explanations - Differential association theory - Psychodynamic explanations 	<p>Relationships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The evolutionary explanations for partner preferences - Factors affecting attraction in romantic relationships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Self-disclosure - Physical attractiveness, including the matching hypothesis - Filter theory - Theories of romantic relationships: social exchange theory - Equity theory - Rusbult's investment model - Duck's phase model of relationship breakdown - Virtual relationships in social media: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Self-disclosure - Parasocial relationships: levels of parasocial relationships 		
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				- Absorption addiction model and the attachment theory explanation		
Assessment	- Issues and debates end-of- topic assessment - Approaches end-of-topic assessment	- Biopsychology end-of-topic assessment - Schizophrenia end-of-topic assessment		- Forensic psychology end-of - topic assessment -Relationships end-of-topic assessment	- Paper 1 PPE	

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.