

Curriculum overview - Psychology

	Intent for the year	Units	Duration	Assessment
Year 12	<p>Year 12 psychology is about learning about what makes us who we are through conducting research into different aspects of human behaviour. We study the foundations of psychology which includes finding out about social, cognitive and biological psychology as well as Learning Theories. Psychology will train you to conduct your own psychological investigations using a range of scientific research methods to collect, analyse and interpret your own data.</p> <p>Psychology will give students an understanding of important social questions such as what makes someone prejudiced and how can we reduce prejudice in society. What makes someone obedient to authority and how can we avoid blind obedience when people should speak up against tyrants? Cognitive psychology gives students an insight into cognitive functions, especially memory. Biological psychology focuses on physiological processes in the body and how our nature and nature drive our behaviour. Learning Theories give students an appreciation of how we learn information from birth and how we are influenced by other people around us.</p> <p>Issues and debates are about the bigger questions in psychology such as "how ethical is psychological research?". These issues and debates encourage students to take a synoptic</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social psychology</li> <li>Cognitive psychology</li> <li>Biological psychology</li> <li>Learning Theories</li> <li>Issues and Debates</li> </ol>	<p>8-9 weeks</p> <p>8-9 weeks</p> <p>8-9 weeks</p> <p>8-9 weeks</p>	<p><b>For each unit (1-4):</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key question essay in timed conditions – which asks students to apply knowledge from the unit to an issue in society and provide solutions to that issue using psychological evidence to support it.</li> <li>Practical investigation – which students apply their practical research skills to a chosen method for each unit. They design and conduct a piece of research. Analyse their data and evaluate their investigation.</li> <li>End of topic test in timed conditions – exam questions to assess the range of assessment objectives on the course.</li> </ol> <p><b>For issues and debates</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One timed assessment comprising 2 essay questions (1x8 marks and 1x12 marks) as per the terminal paper 1 exam.</li> </ol> <p><b>End of year exam = full paper 1</b></p>
Year 13	<p>Year 13 psychology continues to explore the question of what causes human behaviour but this time we are focusing on applying the foundations of psychology (learned in year 1) to contemporary topics in psychology. Students will learn about mental health conditions in clinical psychology and the causes of criminal offending in criminological psychology. The year 13 course interleaves with the year 12 course in that students must develop and apply their knowledge from social, cognitive, biological psychology and learning theories in order to understand what causes mental health conditions and how they can be treated as well as what causes people to become offenders and how can we stop people from offending? The issues and debates unit builds on the year 12 knowledge and skills. We also further develop practical research skills and critical evaluation skills in essay writing about issues and debates.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clinical psychology</li> <li>Criminological psychology</li> <li>Skills in psychology</li> </ol>	<p>1 term</p> <p>9 weeks</p> <p>6 weeks</p>	<p><b>For units 1-2:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key question essay in timed conditions – which asks students to apply knowledge from the unit to an issue in society and provide solutions to that issue using psychological evidence to support it.</li> <li>Practical investigation – which students apply their practical research skills to a chosen method for each unit. They design and conduct a piece of research. Analyse their data and evaluate their investigation.</li> <li>End of topic test in timed conditions – exam questions to assess the range of assessment objectives on the course.</li> </ol> <p><b>For unit 3:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>End of topic test to assess all the different question types in paper 3.</li> </ol>

			<p><b><u>Pre-public exams:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Paper 1 – Autumn term</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Paper 2 – Spring term 1</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Paper 3 – Spring term 2</u></b></p>
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