

Psychology Curriculum Overview

Curriculum Intent

The fundamental purpose of the Sociology course is to develop an understanding for the way in which we as humans behave. Through cultivating an understanding of one's own behaviour it empowers an individual to take control of their own actions, as well as how to respond to others in any given situation. Students must be encouraged to develop their own psychological awareness through active engagement with not only contemporary psychological theory, but also established psychological approaches.

To do this, we must:

- Foster inquisitiveness and maintain pupil engagement and enjoyment in Psychology.
- Develop reflective learning for all pupils by promoting an awareness of the wider implications of Psychology for the individual, the community and the wider world in terms of medicine and healthcare.
- Implement flexible teaching and learning practices and build resources that allow pupils to be ambitious, courageous and confident in both their classroom experiences and during independent learning.
- Develop a lifelong interest in psychological issues.

Year 12 Psychology Curriculum Overview

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
<p>Introduction to Psychology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is psychology? • Why psychology? <p>Approaches Origins of psychology: Wundt, introspection and the emergence of psychology as a science.</p> <p>Research methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Features of science: objectivity and the empirical method; Experimental method. • Experimental designs: • Pilot studies and the aims of piloting. • Correlations • The difference between aims and hypotheses. • Sampling • Quantitative and qualitative data • Primary and secondary data • Variables • Demand characteristics and investigator effects. <p>Social Influence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of conformity: internalisation, 	<p>Memory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The multi-store model of memory • Types of long-term memory: episodic, semantic, procedural. • The working memory model • Explanations for forgetting proactive and retroactive interference and retrieval failure due to absence of cues. • Factors affecting the accuracy of eyewitness testimony • Improving the accuracy of eyewitness testimony, including the use of the cognitive interview. <p>Research methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethics, including the role of the British Psychological Society's code of ethics <p>Attachment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caregiver-infant interactions in humans. Stages of attachment identified by 	<p>Research Methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of peer review in the scientific process. • The implications of psychological research for the economy. • Descriptive statistics: measures of central tendency – mean, median, mode; calculation of mean, median and mode • Presentation and display of quantitative data: graphs, tables, scatter grams, bar charts, histograms • Distributions: normal and skewed distributions; characteristics of normal and skewed distributions. • Introduction to statistical testing; the sign test. <p>Scientific process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reliability across all methods of investigation. • Types of validity across all methods of investigation • Reporting psychological investigations. <p>Data Handling:</p>	<p>Psychopathology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definitions of abnormality, including deviation from social norms, failure to function adequately, statistical infrequency and deviation from ideal mental health. • The behavioural, emotional and cognitive 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>Approaches The basic assumptions of the following approaches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning approaches • The cognitive approach • The biological approach • The psychodynamic approach • Humanistic psychology 	<p>Biopsychology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The divisions of the nervous system • The structure and function of sensory, relay and motor neurons • The function of the endocrine system: glands and hormones. • The fight or flight response including the role of adrenaline. • Localisation of function in the brain and hemispheric lateralisation • Ways of studying the brain • Biological rhythms <p>Mock exams</p> <p>Issues and debates in Psychology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender bias and culture bias • Free will and determinism • Nature- nurture debate • Holism and reductionism • Idiographic and nomothetic approaches to psychological investigations • Ethical implications 	<p>Issues and debates in Psychology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender bias and culture bias • Free will and determinism • Nature- nurture debate • Holism and reductionism • Idiographic and nomothetic approaches to psychological investigations • Ethical implications

<p>identification and compliance. informational social influence and normative social influence, and variables affecting conformity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • including group size, unanimity and task difficulty as investigated by Asch. • Conformity to social roles as investigated by Zimbardo. • Explanations for obedience 	<p>Schaffer. Multiple attachments and the role of the father.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal studies of attachment: Lorenz and Harlow. • Explanations of attachment: learning theory and Bowlby's monotropic theory. • Ainsworth's 'Strange Situation'. Types of attachment • Bowlby's theory of maternal deprivation. Romanian orphan studies: effects of institutionalisation. • The influence of early attachment on childhood and adult relationships <p>Research methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observational techniques. • Self-report techniques. • Observational design: behavioural categories; event sampling; time sampling. • Questionnaire construction, including use of open and closed questions; design of interviews. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levels of measurement: nominal, ordinal and interval. • Content analysis and coding. Thematic analysis. <p>Inferential testing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Probability and significance: use of statistical tables and critical values in interpretation of significance; Type I and Type II errors. • Introduction to statistical testing; the sign test. • Factors affecting the choice of statistical test, including level of measurement and experimental design. When to use the following tests: Spearman's rho, Pearson's r, Wilcoxon, Mann-Whitney, related t-test, unrelated t-test and Chi-Squared test 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparison of approaches. 		
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Year 13 Psychology Curriculum Overview

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
<p>Biopsychology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Localisation of function in the brain and hemispheric lateralisation Biological rhythms <p>Research Methods</p> <p>Scientific process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Types of validity across all methods of investigation Features of science Reporting psychological investigations. Sections of a scientific report: abstract, introduction, method, results, discussion and referencing. <p>Data Handling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis and interpretation of correlation, including correlation coefficients. Levels of measurement: nominal, ordinal and interval. Content analysis and coding. Thematic analysis. 	<p>Relationships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The evolutionary explanations for partner preferences, including the relationship between sexual selection and human reproductive behaviour. Factors affecting attraction in romantic relationships: self-disclosure; physical attractiveness, including the matching hypothesis; filter theory, including social demography, similarity in attitudes and complementarity. Theories of romantic relationships: social exchange theory, equity theory and Rusbult's investment model of commitment, satisfaction, comparison with alternatives and investment. Duck's phase model of relationship breakdown: intra-psychic, dyadic, social and grave dressing phases. 	<p>Schizophrenia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classification of schizophrenia. Positive symptoms of schizophrenia, including hallucinations and delusions. Negative symptoms of schizophrenia, including speech poverty and avolition. Reliability and validity in diagnosis and classification of schizophrenia, including reference to co-morbidity, culture and gender bias and symptom overlap. Biological explanations for schizophrenia: genetics, the dopamine hypothesis and neural correlates. Psychological explanations for schizophrenia: family dysfunction and cognitive explanations, including dysfunctional thought processing. Drug therapy: typical and atypical antipsychotics. Cognitive behaviour therapy and family therapy as used in the treatment of schizophrenia. Token economies as used in the management of schizophrenia. 	<p>Aggression</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neural and hormonal mechanisms in aggression, including the roles of the limbic system, serotonin and testosterone. Genetic factors in aggression, including the MAOA gene. The ethological explanation of aggression, including reference to innate releasing mechanisms and fixed action patterns. Evolutionary explanations of human aggression. Social psychological explanations of human aggression, including the frustration-aggression hypothesis, social learning theory as applied to human aggression, and de-individuation. Institutional aggression in the context of prisons: dispositional and situational explanations. Media influences on aggression, including the effects of computer games. The role of desensitisation, 	<p>Recap- AS Level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Memory Social influence Attachment Psychopathology Approaches- cognitive, behavioural, biological, evolutionary <p>Revision A Level</p>	

<p>Inferential testing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Probability and significance● Factors affecting the choice of statistical test, including level of measurement and experimental design. When to use the following tests: Spearman's rho, Pearson's r, Wilcoxon, Mann-Whitney, related t-test, unrelated t-test and Chi-Squared test.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Virtual relationships in social media: self-disclosure in virtual relationships; effects of absence of gating on the nature of virtual relationships.● Parasocial relationships: levels of parasocial relationships, the absorption addiction model and the attachment theory explanation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● The importance of an interactionist approach in explaining and treating schizophrenia; the diathesis stress model	disinhibition and cognitive priming.		
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