

Year 12 CURRICULUM PLAN for PSYCHOLOGY

The curriculum for this stage of students' education has been designed to support Psychology student's discovery of a new and exciting subject option. The topic of Approaches will allow students to engage with a broad overview of the discipline before they are exposed to the complexity of the subject, through the introduction of research methods. Prior knowledge of maths and science will be assessed at his stage and built upon further. Students will then embark on learning both paper 1 and paper 2 topics, before ending the Summer term with the challenge of engaging with A2 Approaches, which includes advanced comparison of all approaches within Psychology. Students will be formally assessed with two periods of mock examinations, a one-hour paper in November to assess initial knowledge obtained and a further three papers in June to assess knowledge retention over time and exam technique.

<p>HALF TERM 1: STUDENTS MUST KNOW:</p> <p>PAPER 2: APPROACHES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Origins of Psychology • Behaviourist • Social Learning Theory • Cognitive • Biological <p>PAPER 2: RESEARCH METHODS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of experiment, hypothesis formation, observations, self-report data, correlations <p>HOW THIS WILL BE ASSESSED:</p> <p>Maths and Science baseline assessment Weekly tests Fortnightly exam questions Ability to outline theories</p>	<p>HALF TERM 2: STUDENTS MUST KNOW:</p> <p>PAPER 2: BIOPSYCHOLOGY (AS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Divisions of the nervous system and endocrine system • Neurons and synaptic transmission • The fight or flight response <p>PAPER 2: PSYCHOPATHOLOGY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definitions of abnormality. • Characteristics of OCD, depression and phobias • Behaviourists approach to explaining and treating phobias • Cognitive approach to explaining and treating depression • Biological approach to explaining and treating OCD <p>HOW THIS WILL BE ASSESSED:</p> <p>Mock exam Weekly tests Fortnightly exam questions Ability to describe and evaluate theories</p>	<p>HALF TERM 3: STUDENTS MUST KNOW:</p> <p>PAPER 1: MEMORY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Features of memory / types of memory • MSM and WMM models of memory • Explanations for forgetting • Improving EWT / cognitive interview <p>HOW THIS WILL BE ASSESSED:</p> <p>Weekly tests Fortnightly exam questions Reading week project Ability to apply theories to scenarios</p>
<p>HALF TERM 4: STUDENTS MUST KNOW:</p> <p>PAPER 1: SOCIAL INFLUENCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conformity and obedience research: Asch, Zimbardo and Milgram. • Situational and dispositional explanations of obedience • Resistance to social influence • Minority influence • Social change. <p>PAPER 2: RESEARCH METHODS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethical guidelines, quantitative and qualitative data, data distribution, reliability and validity, mathematical analysis <p>HOW THIS WILL BE ASSESSED:</p> <p>Weekly tests Fortnightly exam questions Ability to discuss and compare theories</p>	<p>HALF TERM 5: STUDENTS MUST KNOW:</p> <p>PAPER 1: ATTACHMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stages of attachment • Explanations of attachment • Animal studies (Harlow and Lorenz) • Ainsworth's strange situation • Cultural variations of attachment types • Maternal deprivation and institutionalisation • Early attachment and adult relationships <p>HOW THIS WILL BE ASSESSED:</p> <p>Mock exam Weekly tests Fortnightly exam questions Ability to describe and evaluate theories</p>	<p>HALF TERM 6: STUDENTS MUST KNOW:</p> <p>PAPER 2: RESEARCH METHODS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correlations, self-report techniques, observations, descriptive statistics <p>PAPER 2: APPROACHES (A2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychodynamic • Humanistic • Comparison of approaches (AS & A2) <p>HOW THIS WILL BE ASSESSED:</p> <p>Mock exams Weekly tests Fortnightly exam questions Ability to design and conduct research</p>

Embedding this knowledge can be supported at home by the constant review of lesson content through a range of revision methods, including the completion of past exam papers and analysis of mark schemes. The required commitment to A-Level Psychology is a minimum of 4 hours independent study each week to consolidate and extend knowledge. Students can further develop their understanding of Psychology through taking advantage of securing a year 12 work experience in a care setting, for example in an elderly care home or nursery. This will allow them to apply theory to real life settings, making them aware of the rewards and challenges involved in working in this sector.