



The curriculum for this stage of students' education has been designed to build upon the skills obtained in year 12 and engage with progressively more complex content. The optional topics of Relationships, Schizophrenia and Forensic Psychology have been chosen to engage students with interesting content, for example considering whether criminality is caused by nature or nurture and evaluating the causes of relationships breakdown. The most complex topics, Biopsychology and Issues and Debates will be studied last to aid retention. Research methods will also be revisited throughout the entire year as it equates to 25% of the total marks. Students will be formally assessed with three mock exam papers in November to assess knowledge and exam technique. They will also complete a further mock period in March to assess the retention of knowledge over time.

<p>HALF TERM 1: STUDENTS MUST KNOW:</p> <p>PAPER 2: A2 APPROACHES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Humanistic approach Psychodynamic approach Comparison of approaches <p>PAPER 2 ISSUES AND DEBATES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender and culture, free will versus determinism, nature versus nurture and holism versus reductionism. Idiographic versus nomothetic and ethical implications. Research methods. <p>HOW THIS WILL BE ASSESSED: 16-mark question independent study booklet Weekly tests Fortnightly exam questions</p>	<p>HALF TERM 2: STUDENTS MUST KNOW:</p> <p>PAPER 2 BIOPSYCHOLOGY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The nervous and endocrine systems, neurons and synaptic transmission Localisation and function in the brain, plasticity and functional recovery after trauma, split-brain research, ways of investigating the brain. Circadian rhythms, infradian and ultradian rhythms and endogenous pacemakers and exogenous zeitgebers. Research methods. <p>HOW THIS WILL BE ASSESSED: 16-mark question independent study booklet Weekly tests Fortnightly exam questions</p>	<p>HALF TERM 3: STUDENTS MUST KNOW:</p> <p>PAPER 3: FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defining and measuring crime, offender profiling, atavistic form, genetic and neural explanations. Eysenck's Theory, cognitive explanations, Differential Association Theory and Psychodynamic explanations. Treating crime: custodial sentencing, behaviour modification, anger management and restorative justice. Research methods. <p>HOW THIS WILL BE ASSESSED: Presentation of summer research project Weekly tests Fortnightly exam questions</p>
<p>HALF TERM 4: STUDENTS MUST KNOW:</p> <p>PAPER 3: SCHIZOPHRENIA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reliability and validity of diagnosis of schizophrenia Symptoms of schizophrenia Gender and culture bias Explanations for schizophrenia (biological, family dynamic, cognitive) Treatments of schizophrenia (biological and behavioural) <p>HOW THIS WILL BE ASSESSED: Mock exams Mock re-sits for any underachieving students HOW THIS WILL BE ASSESSED: External exams</p>	<p>HALF TERM 5: STUDENTS MUST KNOW:</p> <p>PAPER 3 RELATIONSHIPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sexual selection and human reproductive behaviour. Factors affecting attraction: self-disclosure, physical attractiveness, filter theory. Theories of romantic relationships: social exchange theory, equity theory, Rusbult's model. Duck's phase model of relationship breakdown. Virtual relationships in social media and parasocial relationships. Research methods. <p>HOW THIS WILL BE ASSESSED: Mock exams Mock re-sits for any underachieving students</p>	<p>HALF TERM 6: STUDENTS MUST KNOW:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All 11 topics; Approaches, Research Methods, Memory, Attachment, Social Influence, Psychopathology, Schizophrenia, Forensic Psychology, Relationships, Biopsychology, Issues and Debates. Particular attention will be paid to biological theories, statistical analysis and research methods, as these are the most challenging areas. <p>HOW THIS WILL BE ASSESSED: External exams</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 will benefit from reading degree level journal articles relating to subject content, which can be found on Google Scholar. Students can also widen their knowledge of Psychology through completing MOOC courses online in areas such as health care, biology and mental health, to compliment the course, but also further prepare them for degree level study.

