

Year 12 Psychology

Students study AQA A' level Psychology

Students study 11 different topics over the two years, all of which are examined in 3 exams at the end of Year 13. As the subject is new to all year 12 students, the introductory topics underpin psychological research methods and some of the major areas in psychological research.

Students have one teacher teaching 4 periods per week with an additional supervised independent study period per week (5th period).

Each lesson begins with the Key Learning Question which links to all aspects of the topic, and a "Brain in Gear" activity which provides an opportunity for students to recall previous learning and confirm their understanding. Teacher input introduces students to related concepts and research facilitating a deeper level of understanding, and builds upon the basic knowledge learned in the previous introductory lesson. Key skills such as application, analysis and evaluation are developed through past exam question practise.

There is no coursework, but students are given opportunities to conduct their own psychological research to reinforce their understanding of a range of research methodologies.

At the end of each topic students generally complete an end of topic test, which is graded and used to identify their strengths and any weaknesses where further support may be required.

Year 12 Curriculum	Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2	Spring Term 1	Spring Term 2	Summer Term 1	Summer Term 2
Topic(s)	Research Methods Designing and conducting research Approaches in Psychology Origins of psychology Learning & cognitive approaches	Research Methods Analysis and interpretation of data Approaches in Psychology Biological approach Memory - Models of memory, theories of forgetting.	Memory Eyewitness Testimony Social Influence Conformity & Obedience Types of conformity, Conformity to social roles	Attachment Caregiver-infant interactions Stages of attachment Explanations of attachment Influence of early attachment on childhood	Psychopathology Definitions of abnormality Behavioural, emotional and cognitive characteristics of phobias, depression and OCD.	Year 1 Biopsychology Divisions of the nervous system Structure and functions of neurons Endocrine system Fight or flight response

Assessment			Explanations for obedience, resistance to social influence, minority influence and social change		Explanations and treatments for each disorder	Paper 1/2 Test
	<p>Regular in-class knowledge tests Homework consists mainly of past exam questions. End of topic tests are carried out. Additionally, 2 or 3 interim tests for research methods, psychopathology and approaches to break down the content of larger topics into their distinct separate elements. Student's normally carry out a field study and write up a report at the beginning of Autumn Term 2. Students sit a January Mock exam to assess overall progress Peer and self assessment are also used to help students understand the marking criteria and improve exam technique</p>					

Independent Work

Exam Questions
Researching particular topics/theories/studies
Exercises from the textbook
Mini experiments
Revision
Preparing presentations/group work
Re-writing or correcting work using feedback given
Preparing their own topic/revision resources