

Year 13 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. In year 13 knowledge builds upon the material covered in year 12.

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 to facilitate 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 and class exercises.

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

At the end of each topic students will 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 13 Curriculum	Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2	Spring Term 1	Spring Term 2	Summer Term 1	Summer Term 2
Topic(s)	<p>Year 2 Biopsychology Localisation of function Biological rhythms Ways of investigating the brain Hemispheric lateralisation Plasticity and functional recovery</p> <p>Forensic Psychology Defining crime, offender profiling,</p>	<p>Forensic psychology Biological and psychological explanations for offending. Dealing with offending.</p> <p>Year 2 Approaches Psychodynamic and humanistic approaches</p> <p>Mock Paper 2</p>	<p>Issues & Debates Biases - cultural / gender, Free-will v determinism Nature-Nurture, Holism v reductionism Nomothetic v Idiographic approaches & Ethics.</p> <p>Yr 2 Research Methods Statistical Analysis, Psychology as a science.</p>	<p>Gender Biological cognitive & psychodynamic explanations. Atypical gender development.</p> <p>Schizophrenia Classification and diagnosis of schizophrenia.</p> <p>Mock Paper 3</p>	<p>Schizophrenia Biological and psychological explanations and therapies. Revision and exam preparation.</p>	<p>A Level Examinations</p>

Assessment

Regular in-class knowledge tests
Homework consists mainly of past exam questions.
End of topic tests are carried out.
Further interim tests for research methods, psychopathology and approaches topics to break down the content of these larger topics into their distinct separate elements.
Students carry out a field study and write up a report at the beginning of Autumn Term 2.
Mock exam to assess overall progress
Peer and self assessment are also used to help students understand the marking criteria and improve exam technique.

Independent Work

Exam Questions
Researching particular topic/theory
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