

Curriculum Information

Key Stage 4



Psychology

*Shaping creative and confident
students who better understand
themselves and the world around
them*

For yourself & for others



Curriculum Intent

Psychology allows students to learn more about the human mind, body and behaviour in the real world. The AQA course which we have chosen to study at GCSE and A level aims to introduce students to the fundamentals of Psychology; developing critical analysis, independent thinking and research skills through discussion and written based tasks. Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of psychological content, apply this knowledge in a range of contexts and be able to analyse and evaluate information.

Key Stage 4 Psychology

The GCSE Psychology curriculum has been designed to provide students with an introduction to the main branches of psychology including, cognitive, developmental, social, biological and research methods incorporating theories and research studies. Students start learning about memory as it focuses on an area of cognitive psychology which students can relate to easily before then leading to more advanced cognitive areas such as perception & language. Similarly, students are introduced to developmental & biological psychology in year 10 before covering more detailed information about the brain and body in year 11.

At KS4 students study the topics memory, perception, development, research methods, social influence, language, thought & communication, the brain & neuropsychology and psychological problems. Students sit two 1 hour 45 minute exams at the end of year 11 which provides them with their GCSE psychology grade. Students will gain knowledge of key psychological theories and research, be able to apply this knowledge to a range of scenarios and critically evaluate theories and research. Psychology provides students with an understanding of the human mind, body and behaviour which can lead to further study at KS5 or higher education. There are lots of career paths linked to the subject such as becoming a forensic, sports or clinical psychologist, joining the police force, counselling, mental health nursing etc.

Key Stage 4 Psychology

Recommended textbook:

AQA GCSE psychology second edition, ISBN: 9780198413639

Specification link:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/gcse/psychology-8182>



Year & Half Term	Themes / Key Questions	Knowledge & Skills
Yr10 HT1	Memory topic- how do we take in, store and remember information? What factors affect our memory?	Understanding of human memory, applying concepts to scenarios and evaluating research theories & studies.
Yr 10 HT2	Perception- do we all perceive information in the same way? Why do we fall for visual illusions?	Understanding of perception, applying concepts to scenarios and evaluating research theories & studies.
Yr 10 HT3	Development- how do we learn? How do we develop from birth to adults?	Understanding of how the human mind develops, applying concepts to scenarios and evaluating research theories & studies.
Yr 10 HT4	Research methods- how do we conduct research?	Understanding and critiquing the ways psychologists conduct their research, interpreting data, producing graphical displays and charts.
Yr 10 HT5	Research methods- how do we conduct research?	Understanding and critiquing the ways psychologists conduct their research, interpreting data, producing graphical displays and charts.
Yr 10 HT6	Social influence- how do we behave around others? Why do we conform and obey?	Understanding of how humans behave in social situations, applying concepts to scenarios and evaluating research theories & studies.



Year & Half Term	Themes / Key Questions	Knowledge & Skills
Yr 11 HT1	Social influence- how do we behave around others? Why do we conform and obey?	Understanding of how humans behave in social situations, applying concepts to scenarios and evaluating research theories & studies.
Yr 11 HT2	Psychological problems- what is mental health? What causes depression & addiction?	Understanding of mental health & disorders, applying concepts to scenarios and evaluating research theories & studies.
Yr 11 HT3	Language, thought & communication- how do children develop language?	Understanding of how humans and animals communicate, applying concepts to scenarios and evaluating research theories & studies.
Yr 11 HT4	The brain & neuropsychology- how does the brain & body affect behaviour?	Understanding of how the human body affects behaviour, applying concepts to scenarios and evaluating research theories & studies.
Yr 11 HT5	Revision	Applying knowledge to examination questions.