

# Psychology Curriculum Overview 2023–2024

Department Name:	Psychology
Head of	Miss R Brightman
Department:	
Subject	Miss R Brightman
Teachers:	Miss B Holsman Mr J Richardson
Accommodation	
and Resources:	The Psychology classrooms are bright and colourful rooms with a large working space for up to 32 students.
	The department has a selection of current textbooks for each course level, as well as previous textbooks containing both relevant and additional information. A subscription to the British Psychological Society Magazine is readily available to students on the bookshelves, alongside other literature, novels and DVDs with relevance to the psychology curriculum. Online versions are also available of the relevant textbooks at all levels, as well as Psychology Review, tailored to the A Level course.
	A very useful website for both A level and GCSE psychology can be found below with resources that we use in lesson and for revision purposes:
	A Level: https://learndojo.org/a-level/aqa-psychology/
	GCSE: https://learndojo.org/gcse/aqa-psychology/
	The Year 9 and 10 classes are split between two teachers whereas the year 11, 12 and 13 classes are taught only by Miss Brightman. The curriculum is balanced between teachers to ensure expertise in each area of each qualification.
	Both GCSE and A Level exams are with the AQA Board.
What will students learn each year?	
Year 9	Year 9 is a bridging year so students can embed key skills and knowledge to go into Key Stage 4 with confidence. This is to help secure progress at the end of Key Stage 4. It helps students to have some autonomy over their curriculum decisions, without narrowing their curriculum prematurely.
	Term 1:  Approaches in Psychology Individual Differences:  - Mood and Emotion
	- Personality - All About You

### Social Approach:

- Behaving Badly
- Positive Performance
- Crowd Control

### Term 2:

# **Approaches in Psychology**

Cognitive Approach:

- Using the brain to think
- How memory works

Using our sense Developmental Approach:

How individuals change throughout their lives

### Term 3:

# **Approaches in Psychology**

Biological Approach:

- Neuroscience and genetics as contributors to behaviour

Debates within Psychology:

- Reductionism vs. holism
- Nature vs. nurture

### Term 4:

### **Research Methods**

Considerations in Research Design:

- Hypotheses and variables
- Extraneous variables
- Ethical issues
- Sampling
- Research procedures

Quantitative and Qualitative data:

- Correlations
- Interviews
- Questionnaires

## Term 5:

### **Research Methods**

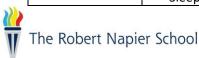
Quantitative and Qualitative data:

- Experiments
- Experimental designs
- Case studies
- Observations
- Reliability and Validity
- Correlations
- Case studies
- Data Handling
- Types of Data
- Descriptive Statistics
- Interpretation and Display of Data

### Term 6:

### **Extra Psychology**

- The physical brain
- Brain anatomy
- Brain development
- Morality
- Sleep & dreaming



- **Phobias**
- Criminal Psychology
- Careers
- Inside Out film review

### Year 10

### Term 1:

### Memory

Processes of Memory:

- Encoding, Storage and Retrieval
- Types of long-term memory
- Key Study: Baddeley (1966)

### Structures of Memory:

- Multi-store model of memory
- Primacy and recency effects in recall
- Core Key Study: Murdock (1962)

Memory as an active process:

Reconstructive memory Factors affecting accuracy of memory:

- Core Key Study: Bartlett (1932)
- Interference
- Context
- **False Memories**

### Term 2:

### **Social Influence**

### Conformity

- Core Key Study: Asch (1955)
- Social and dispositional factors

### Obedience

- Key Study: Milgram (1963)
- Milgram's agency theory
- Adorno's theory

### **Prosocial Behaviour**

- Core Key Study: Piliavin (1969)
- Social and dispositional factors

# Crowd and Collective Behaviour

- Deindividuation
- Key Study: Reicher (1980)
- Social and dispositional factors

### Term 3:

# Language, Thought & Communication

Language and thought

- Piaget's Theory
- The Sapir-Whorf hypothesis
- Our view of the world

**Human and Animal Communication** 

- Core Key Study: Von Frisch (1967)
- Human versus animal communication

Non-verbal Communication

- Eye-contact
- **Body Language**
- Personal Space

Non-verbal Behaviour

- Darwin's evolutionary theory
- Innate or learned?
- Core Key Study: Yuki's study of emoticons (2007)

Term 4



### Perception

- Sensation and perception
- Visual cues and constancies
- Visual illusions

### Theories of perception

- Gibson's direct theory
- Gregory's constructivist theory

# Factors affecting perception

- Culture
- Emotion
- Motivation
- Expectation

### Term 5:

### Development

Early Brain Development

Piaget's Theory of Development

- Conservation
- Core Key Study: McGarrigle and Donaldson (naughty teddy)
- Egocentrism
- Core Key Study: Hughes (policeman study)
- Stages of cognitive development
- Application in education

### Effects of learning on development

- Dweck's mindset theory
- The role of praise and self-efficacy
- Learning styles
- Willingham's learning theory

### Term 6:

# **Brain & Neuropsychology**

Structure and function of the nervous system

- The divisions of the human nervous system
- The autonomic nervous system and the fight or flight response.
- The James-Lange theory of emotion.

# Neuron structure and function

- Sensory, relay and motor neurons.
- Synaptic transmission
- Hebb's theory of learning and neuronal growth.

# Structure and function of the brain

- Brain structure
- Basic function of these structures
- Localisation of function in the brain
- Penfield's study of the interpretive cortex

### An introduction to neuropsychology

- Cognitive neuroscience
- The use of scanning techniques
- Tulving's 'gold' memory study
- Neurological damage

### Year 11

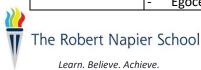
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### Development

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### Term 3:

### **Psychological Problems: Depression**

An Introduction to Mental Health

Types of, and diagnosing Depression

Theories of Depression

- Biological explanation
- Psychological explanation

Therapies for depression

- Antidepressant medication
- Cognitive Behaviour Therapy
- Core Key Study: Wiles' study

### Psychological Problems: Addiction

What is addiction?

Diagnosing Addiction

Theories of Addiction

- Biological explanation
- Core Key Study: Kaji's twin study
- Psychological explanation

Therapies for depression

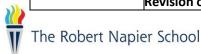
- Aversion Therapy
- Self-management programmes

# Term 4:

# **Revision of Paper 1**

Term 5:

**Revision of Paper 2 & Exams** 



# Term 6: Exams

# **Year 12** Term 1:

# Approaches

- Cognitive
- Social (Bandura)
- Behavioural (Pavlov/Skinner)
- Biological
- Humanistic (Maslow/Rogers)
- Psychodynamic (Freud)

### Term 2:

### **Issues and Debates**

- Gender Bias
- Reductionism vs holism
- Ethical Implications
- Nature vs nurture
- Approaches Nomothetic vs idiographic research
- Determinism vs Free will
- Ethnocentrism

### Term 3:

### Memory

Encoding, Capacity and Duration

Multi-Store Model of Memory

Types of Long Term Memory

Working Memory Model

### Forgetting

- Retrieval Failure
- Interference

Factors affecting Eyewitness Testimony

Improving the accuracy of Eyewitness Testimony

# Term 4:

### **Research Methods**

- Experimental method
- Control of Variables
- Experimental design
- Types of experiment
- Sampling
- Ethical issues & ways of dealing with them
- Pilot studies etc.
- Observations
- Observational design

# Term 5:

### Social Influence

### Conformity

- Types and explanations
- Asch's research
- Zimbardo's research

# Obedience

- Milgram's research
- Situational Variables



- Social-psychological factors
- Dispositional explanations

Resistance to Social Influence

Minority Influence

Social Influence & Social Change

Term 6:

### Attachment

Caregiver/infant interaction

Stages of attachment (Schaffer and Emerson)

Animal studies (Lorenz, and Harlow)

Learning Theory (Dollard and Miller)

Monotropic/Evolutionary theory (Bowlby)

The strange situation (Ainsworth)

Cultural variations (Van Ijzendoorn)

Maternal deprivation hypothesis (Bowlby)

Effects of institutionalisation (Romanian orphans, Rutter)

Influence of early attachment on childhood and adult relationships (Hazen and Shaver)

### Research Methods

- Self-report techniques
- Self-report design
- Correlations
- Data analysis
- Mathematical content
- Statistical testing
- **Peer Review**

### Year 13 Term 1:

### **Psychopathology**

Definitions of Abnormality

- **Deviation from Social Norms**
- Deviation from Ideal Mental Health
- Failure to Function Adequately
- Statistical Infrequency

# Phobias

- Characteristics
- **Behavioural Explanations and Treatments**

# Depression

- Characteristics
- **Cognitive Explanations and Treatments**

### OCD

Characteristics

Biological Explanations and Treatments

### Term 2:

### Biopsychology

The Nervous System; Structure and Function The Endocrine System; Fight and Flight Response

Localisation of function in the brain

Hemispheric Lateralisation

Plasticity and Functional Recovery

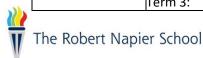
Ways of Studying the Brain

Biological Rhythms

- Circadian
- Infradian
- Ultradian

Endogenous Pacemakers and Exogenous Zeitgebers

Term 3:



### Stress

Physiology of Stress

The Role of Stress in Illness

Sources of Stress: Life Changes and Daily Hassles

Sources of Stress: Workplace Individual Differences in Stress Managing and Coping with Stress Gender Differences in coping with Stress

Measuring Stress

The role of social support in Stress

### Term 4:

### Forensic Psychology

Defining & Measuring Crime

Offender Profiling

- The top down approach
- The bottom up approach

Biological Explanation of offending behaviour

- A historical approach.
- Genetic & neural

Psychological Explanation of offending behaviour

- Eysenck's theory
- Cognitive approach
- Differential association
- Psychodynamic approach

Dealing with offender behaviour

- Custodial sentencing & recidivism
- Behaviour modification in custody
- Anger management
- Restorative Justice programmes

## Issues & Debates Recap

# Term 5:

# Gender

Sex & Gender

Androgyny & the BSRI

The role of Chromosomes & Hormones

Atypical sex chromosome patterns

Cognitive explanations of gender development

- Kohlberg's theory
- Gender schema theory

Psychodynamic explanations of gender development

Social learning explanations of gender development

The influence of culture and media on gender roles

Atypical gender development

# **Revision & Exams**

Term 6:

Exams

