

PSCHOLOGY KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

By the end of Key Stage 4, students should:

Know	- Different types of memory, how memories are processed and factors which affect memory. - Various theories of perception and the difference between how an individual senses and perceives the world around them. - How a baby’s brain and cognitive abilities develop as they move through childhood. - Key decisions that researchers make and justifications for these decisions when designing their research procedures.	- How an individual may be influenced through conformity, obedience and minority influence. - Theories of language and communication in relation to humans and animals. - How structures of the brain influence behaviour. - The theory behind key psychological problems including depression and addiction.
Do	- Build an appreciation for how Psychological research is conducted through designing and taking part in various practical activities throughout the GCSE course. - Actively build on their research methods knowledge by making the decisions that researchers must consider such as which experimental design best suits their research aim.	- Practise using their psychological knowledge to explain real-life situations and behaviours and be encouraged to apply their knowledge to current affairs and practical scenarios. - Critically evaluate psychological theories and studies.
Appreciate	- The role of Psychology and psychological research in understanding and improving human behaviour. - The impact that Psychological understanding has on society.	- The importance of learning and considering different perspectives. - The importance of ethics and the responsibility psychologists have when conducting their research.

Curriculum coverage

	Topic	Sub topic	Coverage
Year 10	Research Methods	Key considerations in research design	- Creation of scientific aims, hypotheses and variables - How participants are selected to take part in research - Research methods in Psychology - Consideration of controls used by researchers when designing experiments - How issues of reliability and validity can impact research - Ethical issues that need to be considered when planning and conducting research
		Data collection and handling methods	- Types of data collected by researchers - Methods used to analyse descriptive statistics - Techniques for displaying quantitative data
	Memory	Process of memory	- How memories are encoded, stored and retrieved - Types of encoding - Methods of memory retrieval
		Structures of memory	- Types of memory as indicated by the Multi-Store Model and the coding type, capacity and duration of each store - Types of long term memory, including episodic, semantic and procedural memories - How Murdock’s key study supports the existence of separate memory stores
		Memory as an active process	- How the factors of interference, context and false memories influence the accuracy of memory - Bartlett’s theory of Reconstructive Memory - How Bartletts’ key study demonstrates that memory is reconstructive
	Perception	Key concepts of perception	- The difference between sensation and perception - Using visual cues to explain visual illusions - The role of visual cues and constancies in perception
		Theories of perception	- How Gibson explains perception as an innate process, in his direct theory - How Gibson explains perception as a learned process, in his constructivist theory
		Factors affecting perception	- How culture, motivation, expectations and emotion affect perceptual set - How Bruner and Minturn’s key study shows expectation affects perception - How Gilchrist and Nesberg’s key study shows motivation affects perception
	Development	Early brain development	- Understanding the nature-nurture debate in Psychology - How areas of the brain develop - How an interaction between nature and nurture affects the developing brain
		Piaget’s stage theory of cognitive development	- Understanding the concepts of schema, assimilation and accommodation - How McGarrigle and Donaldson support and critique Piaget’s ideas on conservation - Piaget’s four stages of cognitive development and its application to education - How Hughes supports and critiques Piaget’s ideas on egocentrism
		The effects of learning on development	- Dweck’s mindset theory and how having a fixed or growth mindset affects development - The role of praise and self-efficacy on learning - The theory of learning styles and Willingham’s critique of this theory

Curriculum Coverage continued:			
	Topic	Sub Topic	Coverage
Year 11	Language, Thought and Communication	The relationship between language and thought	- Piaget’s theory that thought precedes language - Sapir-Whorf’s theory that language influences OR determines thought
		Differences between human and animal communication	- Functions of animal communication and the differences between the properties of human and animal communication - How Von Frisch’s key study demonstrates the function of animal communication
		Non-verbal communication	- The differences between verbal and non-verbal communication - How non-verbal communication is used, including eye-contact, body language and personal space
			- Darwin’s theory of non-verbal communication - How Yuki’s key study suggests that interpretation of non-verbal communication is learned
	Social Influence	Conformity	- What Asch’s key study suggests about conformity - Defining conformity and how social and dispositional factors influence conformity
		Obedience	- Defining obedience - How social and dispositional factors influence obedience
		Prosocial behaviour	- Defining prosocial behaviour - How social and dispositional factors influence prosocial behaviour - What Piliavin’s key study suggests about prosocial behaviour
		Crowd and collective behaviour	- Defining crowd and collective behaviour - How social and dispositional factors influence crowd behaviour
	Brain and Neuropsychology	Structure and function of the nervous system	- The James-Lange theory of emotion - The divisions of the nervous system and how they are utilised in the fight or flight response - The three types of neurons, the structure of a neuron and their functions - The process of synaptic transmission in communicating between neurons - Hebb’s theory of learning and neuronal growth
		Structure and function of the brain	- What Penfield’s key study suggests about localisation of brain function - The functions of key areas of the brain including the four lobes, the cerebellum and localised areas of the cortex, including the motor area, somatosensory area, visual, auditory and language areas
		An introduction to neuropsychology	- Introducing the area of cognitive neuroscience, including how neurological damage affects functioning - Scanning techniques used by cognitive neuroscientists, including CT, PET and fMRI scans - How Tulving’s key study shows the usefulness of scanning techniques when studying types of memory
	Psychological Problems	Impact of mental health	- The individual and societal effects of significant mental health problems - How and why incidence rates of mental health problems are changing over time
		Depression	- The characteristics of sadness, unipolar depression and bipolar depression - The biological and psychological treatments for depression - The biological and psychological explanations of depression - What Wiles’ key study suggests about the effectiveness of combining treatments for depression
			Addiction
		- The biological and psychological treatments for addiction - What Kaij’s key study suggests about the genetic explanation of alcohol abuse.	
Wider Key Stage 4 Curriculum			
Competitions: PsychStix Global Essay Writing Competition: This competition provides students with the opportunity to research and write an academic essay on a topic chosen by the judging panel. Past competitions have included essays on the influence of AI in the field of Psychology.			
Homework Expectations: Bi-weekly show my homework quizzes Guided flashcards – Students will have flashcards to create every other week to consolidate the learning they have done in class. Their guided flashcards help sheet will tell them the titles for each card. The lesson the cards are due, students will be quizzed on the content of the cards to check for understanding. Y11 – A focus on practice exam questions for homework.			

PSCHOLOGY KEY STAGE 5 CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

By the end of Key Stage 5, students should:

Know	- Various psychological approaches to explaining human behaviour. - How an individual's biological structures (including the brain, nervous system and endocrine system) influence their behaviour. - Key decisions that researchers make and justifications for these decisions when designing their research procedures. - How an individual may be influenced through conformity, obedience and minority influence and factors that may cause resistance to social influence. - Different types of memory, how memories are processed and factors which affect memory.	- Theories of attachment and how early attachments affect later relationships. - Explanations and treatments of key psychological disorders including phobias, OCD and depression. - Key issues and debates in the field of Psychology. - Theories and research related to cognition and development. - The biological and psychological explanations and treatments of schizophrenia. - Theories and research related to forensic psychology.
Do	- Actively build on their research methods knowledge by making the decisions that researchers must consider such as which experimental design best suits their research aim. - Practise using their psychological knowledge to explain real-life situations and behaviours and be encouraged to apply their knowledge to current affairs and practical scenarios.	- Design and take part in various practical activities throughout the A-Level course. - Critically evaluate psychological theories and studies. - Communicate complex theoretical ideas through coherent essays. - Use psychological terminology with confidence in both verbal and written communication.
Appreciate	- The complexity of human behaviour, considering biological, psychological and social influences. - The role of Psychology and psychological research in understanding and improving human behaviour. - The impact that Psychological understanding has on society.	- The importance of learning and considering different perspectives. - The importance of ethics and the responsibility psychologists have when conducting their research. - The interactions between Psychology and other disciplines such as biology, sociology, criminology and philosophy.

Curriculum coverage

	Topic	Sub topic	Coverage	Topic	Sub topic	Coverage
Year 12	Approaches	The Behaviourist Approach	The assumptions of the behaviourist approach and the theories of Classical and Operant Conditioning as proposed by Pavlov and Skinner.	Research Methods Part 1	The Scientific Process	Identification and creation of scientific aims, hypotheses and variables
		Social Learning Theory	. The assumptions of social learning theory and the research conducted by Albert Bandura to support the theory.			The potential issues that psychologists must consider when designing research and how to deal with them
		The Cognitive Approach	The assumptions of the cognitive approach including using theoretical models to demonstrate internal mental processes.			Types of experiments used in Psychology, including laboratory experiments, field experiments, natural experiments and quasi experiments.
		The Biological Approach	The assumptions of the biological approach including how genetics, neurotransmitters and evolution shape human behaviour.			Decisions made by researchers including which experimental design and sampling method to use.
		The Psychodynamic Approach	The assumptions of the psychodynamic approach including the work of Sigmund Freud regarding the role of the unconscious.			Ethical considerations made by researchers.
						How researchers quality control their research procedures.
		The Humanistic Approach	The assumptions of the humanistic approach and the work conducted by both Carl Rogers and Abraham Maslow.		Methods	How and why might a researcher use self-report methods.
						Research methods used in Psychology including observations, questionnaires, interviews, correlations and case studies.
	Comparison of Approaches			The Scientific Process Part 2		How reliability and validity is measured and can be improved in psychological research
						Integrity and impact - Maintaining integrity through peer review and the impact of psychological research on the economy
						Features of a psychological report
						The extent to which Psychology can be seen as a science
	Data Handling and Analysis					The various forms of data that can be collected by a researcher.
						How data can be analysed in order to create conclusions.
						Mathematical skills needed in Psychology.

Curriculum Coverage continued:

	Topic	Sub topic	Coverage	Topic	Sub topic	Coverage
Year 12	Biopsychology	The Nervous and Endocrine Systems	Divisions of the nervous system, the structure and function of neurons and the process of synaptic transmission. Role in the fight or flight response.	Memory	Multi-Store Model	- The function of each store in the multi-store model of memory. - The capacity, coding and duration of each store in the multi-store model. - Evidence to support separate stores within the multi-store model.
			The function of the endocrine system including the role of glands and hormones. Role in the fight or flight response.			
		Studying the brain	Localisation of brain function.		Working Memory Model	- The function of each store within the working memory model. - Evidence supporting the working memory model, including the dual-task paradigm.
			Lateralisation of brain function including split-brain research.			
			Ways of studying the brain (fMRI, EEGs, ERPs and post-mortem examinations)		Theories of forgetting	- How proactive and retroactive interference affect forgetting. - How the absence of context and cues affects forgetting. - How retrieval failure affects forgetting.
			Plasticity and functional recovery of the brain after trauma.			
	Clinical Psychology and Mental Health	Definitions in the field of mental health	Deviation from social and cultural norms, failure to function adequately, statistical infrequency and deviation from ideal mental health.		Eye-Witness Testimony	- Factors affecting the reliability of eye-witness testimony including anxiety, post-event discussion and leading questions. - The use of the cognitive interview to improve the reliability of eyewitness testimony.
		Phobias	- Emotional, behavioural and cognitive characteristics of phobias - The Two-Process Model as an explanation for phobias. - Behaviourist treatments: Systematic desensitisation and flooding.	Social Influence	Conformity	- Types of conformity including internalisation and compliance and explanations for conformity (information and normative social influence). - Variables affecting conformity as investigated by Asch.
					Obedience	- Explanations for obedience including agentic state and legitimacy of authority. - Situational variables affecting obedience with reference to Milgram's variations. - Dispositional explanation for obedience – The Authoritarian Personality.
		Depression	- Emotional, behavioural and cognitive characteristics of depression. - Beck's Negative Triad and Ellis' ABC Model as explanations for depression. - Cognitive treatment – CBT and REBT.		Resistance to Social Influence	Explanations including social support and locus of control.
					Minority Influence	How minority influence can occur with reference to consistency, commitment and flexibility.
		OCD	- Emotional, behavioural and cognitive characteristics of OCD. - The biological explanation of OCD: Genetic and neural explanations. - Using drug therapy to treat OCD.			
Year 13	Attachment	Introduction to Attachment and Explanations of Attachment	- Lorenz's animal study of attachment – the role of imprinting. - Harlow's animal study of attachment – the role of contact comfort. - Dollard and Miller's learning theory of attachment. - Bowlby's monotropic theory of attachment.	Research Methods Part 2	Inferential Statistics	- The importance and purpose of inferential statistics. - Choosing a statistical test considering the level of data, experimental design and whether it is a test of difference or relationship. - Probability and significance levels. - Type I and Type II errors and how they occur. - Conducting a sign test and analysing the results. - Knowing whether a result is significant and using critical values tables.
		Types of Attachment	- Ainsworth's Strange Situation and types of attachment identified. - Cultural variations in attachment.			
		Maternal Deprivation	- Bowlby's theory of maternal deprivation. - Romanian orphan studies and the effect of institutionalisation.	Cognition & Development	Piaget's Theory	- Key concepts including schemas, assimilation, accommodation, equilibration. - Piaget's stages of cognitive development
					Vygotsky's Theory	Vygotsky's theory of cognitive development including the zone of proximal development and scaffolding.
		Early Attachment on Later Relationships	The influence of early attachment on childhood and adult relationships with reference to the role of the internal working model.		Baillargeon's Explanation	Baillargeon's explanation of infant abilities including knowledge of the physical world and violation of expectation research.

Curriculum Coverage continued:

Year 13	Topic	Sub topic	Coverage	Topic	Sub topic	Coverage
	Forensic Psychology	Offender Profiling	The typology approach and the data-driven approach to offender profiling.	Cognition & Development cont.	The Development of Social Cognition	Selman’s levels of perspective taking
		Biological Explanations	Genetic explanations of offending behaviour.			Theory of mind, including the use of the Sally-Anne task.
			Neural explanations of offending behaviour.			The role of mirror neurons in social cognition.
		Psychological Explanations	Eysenck’s theory of the criminal personality.	Issues and Debates	Gender Bias in Psychology	Gender bias in Psychology including androcentrism, alpha and beta bias.
			Cognitive explanations of offending – levels of moral reasoning.		Culture Bias in Psychology	Culture bias in Psychology including ethnocentrism and cultural relativism.
			Cognitive explanations of offending – cognitive distortions, including hostile attribution bias and minimisation.		Free Will and Determinism	Free will and determinism including hard determinism, soft determinism, biological, environmental and psychic determinism. The scientific emphasis on causal explanations.
			Sutherland’s differential association theory of offending.		Nature-Nurture Debate	The relative importance of heredity and environment in determining behaviour and the interactionist approach.
		Dealing with Offending Behaviour	The aims and psychological effects of custodial sentencing. The problem of recidivism.		Holism and Reductionism	Levels of explanation in Psychology. Biological reductionism and environmental (stimulus-response) reductionism.
			Behaviour modification in custody including the use of token economies.		Idiographic and Nomothetic Approach	Idiographic and nomothetic approaches to psychological investigation.
			The use of anger management.		Social Sensitivity	Social sensitivity of research studies and theories in Psychology.
			The use of restorative justice programmes.			
	Schizophrenia	Introduction to Schizophrenia	Positive and negative symptoms of schizophrenia.			
			Issues in diagnosing schizophrenia including comorbidity, culture and gender bias and symptom overlap.			
		Biological Explanation and Treatments	Neural explanation of schizophrenia including the dopamine hypothesis.			
			Genetic explanation of schizophrenia.			
			Drug therapy – typical and atypical antipsychotics.			
		Psychological Explanations and Treatments	Family dysfunction and cognitive explanations of schizophrenia.			
			The use of cognitive behaviour therapy as a treatment.			
			The use of family therapy as a treatment.			
Interactionism	Using an interactionist approach to explain and treat schizophrenia.					

Wider Key Stage 5 Curriculum

Competitions: PsychStix Global Essay Writing Competition: This competition provides students with the opportunity to research and write an academic essay on a topic chosen by the judging panel. Past competitions have included essays on the influence of AI in the field of Psychology.

Trips: Tutor2U exam grade booster workshop in Year 13.

Homework Expectations:

- Prior to each lesson students will be expected to fill out their topic glossaries, this will be checked before starting each new topic and students will have the opportunity to add to these during lessons.
- Extra reading is available for each topic on SharePoint.
- Y12 Research Methods – Past paper questions and study research tasks.
- Various past paper questions throughout Y12 and Y13.