

Psychology Curriculum Map

Intent: Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and how it dictates and influences our behaviour, from communication and memory to thought and emotion. It's about understanding what makes people tick and how this understanding can help us address many of the problems and issues in society today. People seek the help and support of psychologists for all sorts of problems, and psychologists employ their knowledge and expertise to help in many areas of society. The A level Psychology curriculum will give students a strong foundation to pursue a career in the field. By the end of the course students will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of psychological concepts, theories, research studies, research methods and ethical issues within Psychology. They will be able apply psychological knowledge and understanding in a range of contexts and be able to analyse, interpret and evaluate psychological concepts, theories, research studies and research methods. Knowledge and understanding of research methods, practical research skills and mathematical skills is a vital part of the Psychology curriculum and students will be given opportunity to design and carry out their own research as well as practice analysis and interpreting data.

Implementation:						
Term	1	2	3	4	5	6
Year 12	<p>We use the first two terms to discover and embed three key topics in Psychology. Starting with Social influence and attachment these two topics are co-taught alongside research methods in a carefully sequenced curriculum. This ensures each area of research is complimented by the relevant methodological understanding of how that research was conducted and how it can be evaluated. Maths skills will also be embedded in activities throughout the curriculum.</p> <p>Students look closely at theories and research studies in social psychology that explain the processes of conformity and obedience on an individual and societal level. At the same time, they examine the key components of the experimental method, issues of ethics and validity in research, correlational design and meta-analysis. They then go on to study developmental psychological research investigating the processes involved in the formation of attachment and the possible consequences of its abnormal development. Alongside attachment students study non – experimental methods of research and methods of sampling and data analysis including through practical lessons. Students will be formally assessed each fortnight in an A level 30-minute assessment. Data from these assessments will be used to plan classroom intervention.</p> <p><u>Topics covered</u> Social influence Research Methods Attachment</p>		<p>The next two terms continue developing the foundations of Psychology through the critical teaching of the six main approaches in Psychology and their comparisons.</p> <p>Two more topics are then delivered. Firstly, students investigate Psychological research into Memory. First looking at models and types of memory and then focusing on explanations for forgetting and accuracy of eye witness testimony.</p> <p>Secondly, students begin the study of Psychopathology, examining the definitions of abnormality and then investigating Psychological research into the causes and treatments for Depression, phobias and Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder. This topic also requires the application of all the content learnt in approaches.</p> <p>Students will be formally assessed in their January Mock exam and in one lesson each fortnight in an A level 30-minute assessment. Data from these assessments will be used to plan classroom intervention. Full feedback will be provided, and students will have opportunity to respond to this feedback in full. 1:1 and small group Intervention will be targeted using data from the mock exam.</p> <p><u>Topics covered</u> Approaches Memory Psychopathology</p>		<p>In the fifth and sixth term, student finish studying the Psychopathology topic before revisiting more advanced year 2 content in research methods to prepare them for their end of year assessment. Students investigate further methods of conducting research in Psychology are explored including case studies and new methods of analysis data such as content and thematic analysis. Validity are reliability are revisited and covered in greater detail and opportunities are provided to relate this to a variety of research scenarios.</p> <p>Students are given opportunity to complete two full exam papers which receive teacher feedback to prepare them for end of year exam next term. They then sit the final end of year mock and full feedback will be provided through walking, talking mock.</p> <p>Year 13 is launched in the final 3 weeks of the term where students learn how to report Psychological investigations through practical lessons and summer project. Students complete a full write up of a lab report over the summer which is a typical requirement of year 1 of a Psychology degree and prepares them for this transition. They also complete foundation work on issues and debates in Psychology over the summer preparing them for this topic and enhancing of evaluation in extended writing.</p> <p><u>Topics covered</u> Psychopathology Research methods Revision of all year 12 topics for end of year exams. Year 13 content / Summer project.</p>	
Year 13	<p>At the start of year 13 students, begin by reviewing the summer homework set for issues and debates and how this can be used to enhance evaluation in extended writing questions. Students then complete Biopsychology, the final topic in paper 2.</p>	<p>At the beginning of this term students begin the second topic in paper 3 (Forensic Psychology) looking at offender profiling.</p> <p>Then they are retaught key content from year 12 and term 1 in preparation for their mock exam (paper 1 and 2). Students will have</p>	<p>Once feedback from the mocks has been completed, we begin relationship Psychology Students investigate what evolutionary explanation for mating behaviour, factors which affect attraction and</p>	<p>Students finish off Issues and debates and then the final A level content with paper 3 topic Schizophrenia. This topic covers diagnosis and classification of the disorder, explanations and treatments. Again, this topic draws upon prior knowledge in approaches and so memory platforms will be used to revisit these concepts.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Exams</u></p> <p>In the final two terms all teaching of new content has been completed. Students will use remaining time to revise all prior topics. Lessons will be spent reteaching and reassessing students on prior content from all three papers. This will include weekly assessment of exam papers. Content that will be retaught which focuses on areas of identified weakness in assessments, areas students lack confidence and areas likely to emerge in this year's exam.</p>	

<p>This topic contains the most demanding content in terms of biological sciences. The focus is on the nervous and endocrine system, the brain and biological rhythms. Students will have opportunity to apply the new skills they have developed writing advanced evaluation. Students also complete the final content in research methods with a focus on inferential statistics. Maths will continue to be embedded.</p> <p>During year 13, students have an extra 50 mins a week of intervention. The interventions focus on revision of year 12 material to make sure they are confident on these topics before their first set of mocks in November. Memory platforms in lessons will also cover year 12 content. Students are assessed formally every two weeks.</p> <p><u>Topics covered</u> Issues and debates Biopsychology Research methods</p>	<p>opportunity to receive full feedback post exams including model answers, analysis of marks and resits.</p> <p>Once feedback of the mocks has been completed, students return to studying forensic Psychology and look at explanations for offending behaviour and methods for dealing with offenders. Both these areas of the topic draw heavily on prior knowledge of approaches in Psychology and involved their application to crime. Memory platforms will focus on this prior knowledge for recall. In addition to mocks, students are assessed formally every two weeks on new content taught.</p> <p><u>Topics covered</u> Forensic Psychology Revision for Mock exam (paper 1 and 2)</p>	<p>theories of romantic relationships. Research on Virtual and Para social relationships is also explored.</p> <p>Issues and debates covered in the summer holiday is now retaught and students are given extended practise on linking content in this topic with other topics already covered to facilitate essay questions and to consolidate advanced evaluation writing.</p> <p>Formal assessment every two weeks on new content.</p> <p><u>Topics covered</u> Relationships Issues and debates</p>	<p><u>Topics covered</u> Issues and debates Schizophrenia Revision of all prior content.</p>	<p>Students will be given practice exam questions and regular tests that will enable them to see what topics they should focus their revision on.</p> <p>Students will use their mock papers, revision guides, QLAs, PLCs and marked activities to revise key concepts, phrases and knowledge and try to apply it to different exam questions in lesson and outside of lesson.</p> <p><u>Topics covered</u> All topics from three papers.</p>
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Impact:

- To ensure students achieve they fullest potential in Psychology, students will be formatively assessed once a fortnight through written assessment that includes short questions, extended essays and research methods questions that will embed key elements of the mark schemes.
- Students are given a memory platform at the start of each lesson. This is graded out of 10 and the score is recorded. Students are expected to achieve 60% in these or will be directed to spend time to improve this score.
- Data from assessments will then be used to target students and aim to enhance their development areas though re-teaching lessons and intervention.
- Students data from assessments and mock exams will be analysed to highlight any areas for development e.g. short mark questions, extended writing or research methods/maths.
- Students will be set homework every lesson which requires them to revisit content from the lessons and practise assessment style questions. This ensures learning is extended further. All homework will be recorded on Show My Homework.
- Students will be directed to do further reading around the subject by making use of online resources and materials in the Russell library. Extracurricular trips will also be organised to Psychological institutions through contacts gained at subject Lead's university.