

Subject overview: Psychology

Subject Rationale (Intent) linked to [whole school curriculum mission](#)

In brief (no more than four sentences)

Psychology will develop students' wider knowledge on a variety of topics, allowing them to leave with balanced views and the ability to take a holistic approach to understanding human behaviour. Students are encouraged to engage in pieces of research throughout the course to widen their learning. Lessons are designed to support students' critical thinking and we have selected topics that students can connect with, often resulting in nurturing a passion for studying Psychology at degree level.

Additional details

Within Psychology students will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of psychological concepts, theories, research methods and ethical issues in relation to a range of core disciplines. They will be able to apply, analyse and evaluate their understanding to a range of contexts. We encourage students to evaluate the use of real world practices to aid their understanding of the appropriateness and fairness of techniques.

YEAR 12

TERM	Topic sequence (What are you teaching?)	Topic sequence rationale (Why are you teaching this? How does it link to prior learning? Any notable links to St Edmund's curriculum mission St Edmund's curriculum mission)	Main method of assessment?
Term 1:1	Year 1 Approaches Year 1 Biopsychology	<p>The four approaches that students are taught in Year 12 link to all other topics in some way, so it is important they look at this first. Year 1 Biopsychology is assessed in the same topic area as Approaches in the AS paper, so they are also taught together and assessed via a past paper.</p> <p>This topic ensures students understand the main assumptions, strengths and criticisms of the main psychological approaches, ready for the more challenging topics they go on to study through the course.</p>	Past paper (Paper 2, AS 2019 - Approaches and Biopsychology)
Term 1:2	Social Influence Year 1 Research Methods	<p>Social Influence is the simplest topic, but is still very interesting. It introduces students to key research, but does so with some of the most memorable pieces. Research Methods is being taught one lesson a week until all content is covered, as aspects of the topic can be linked to the Social Influence topic.</p> <p>Within Social Influence, students are taught how to understand explanations and research into conformity and obedience. This links back to the Social Learning Theory in the Year 1 Approaches topic. Research Methods was previously taught as a stand alone topic, but students found this difficult to engage with, so we changed this to meet their needs and maintain their interest in the subject.</p>	<p>Past paper (Paper 1, AS 2017 - Social Influence)</p> <p>Quiz / small practice questions for RM</p>
Term 2:1	Memory Year 1 Research Methods	<p>Memory is another introductory topic, with limited essays for students to prepare for, so this is the ideal next topic. Research Methods is again being taught one lesson a week, as aspects of the topic can be linked to the Memory topic.</p> <p>Within the Memory topic, students will develop an understanding</p>	<p>Past paper (Paper 1, AS 2019 - Memory)</p> <p>Quiz / small practice</p>

		of different memory stores, what can affect our memory and how memories can be improved. This links back to the Cognitive approach within the Year 1 Approaches topic.	questions for RM
Term 2:2	Attachment Psychopathology	<p>Attachment is the most complex topic from the introductory paper (Paper 1), mainly as it involves a lot of different theories and research. Students will be able to access this level of work by this point in the course, due to the skills they have developed within the earlier topics. Psychopathology is also taught during this half term, as it draws a lot of content from other topics, which can be applied to conditions. It is also a topic students look forward to, as they are often interested in conditions such as OCD.</p> <p>Within both the Attachment and Psychopathology topics, knowledge from the Approaches topic will allow students to apply classical and operant conditioning to the attachment between a mother and baby / development and treatment of phobias. This will help students to revise these processes as well as learning how to apply the processes to new content.</p>	<p>Past paper (Paper 1, AS 2019 - Attachment)</p> <p>Past paper (Paper 2, AS 2017 - Psychopathology and RM)</p>
Term 3:1	Revision	This half term is spent revising the Year 1 content (all 6 topics). End of year assessments (Paper 1 and Paper 2 AS papers) will be timetabled, at least one of which will take place in the Sports Hall, in preparation for external exams in Year 13. We will also do timed Paper 1 and Paper 2 AS papers in class in preparation for the end of year assessments. This allows students to have a taste of sitting full AS papers, with feedback.	AS past papers (1 set for class mocks, 1 set for Sports Hall mocks)
Term 3:2	Year 2 Approaches Year 2 Research Methods	There is Year 2 add-on content for Approaches, Biopsychology and Research Methods. The Biopsychology add-on content is more complex, so it is covered at the start of Year 13 (the end of Year 12 can be disrupted by various events such as work experience and trips, so it is better not to cover complex material during this time). Students find the Approaches add-on content very interesting, so they enjoy ending the year with this. We make a start on the Research Methods add-on content in lessons	Past paper

		<p>and then set the remainder of the booklet for their Summer task.</p> <p>The Approaches and Research Methods content taught during this half term links to the Approaches and Research Methods content taught earlier in Year 12. The last aspect we cover in the Approaches topic is a comparison of all six approaches, so this is a useful recap of all content.</p>	
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YEAR 13			
TERM	Topic sequence (What are you teaching?)	Topic sequence rationale (Why are you teaching this? How does it link to prior learning? Any notable links to St Edmund's curriculum mission)	Main method of assessment?
Term 1:1	Year 2 Biopsychology Issues and Debates	<p>Biopsychology add-on content is quite complex, so we start with that. This is a good insight into the challenges within Year 13, and the topic can be approached at a reasonable pace as it is the start of the year and allows us to spend more time going over aspects that the class may find challenging. The Issues and Debates topic allows a recap of lots of Year 1 content, such as the Approaches and Social Influence, which is useful for the start of Year 13, to help them revise key content from the previous year.</p> <p>Students will learn about aspects of Biopsychology that link to other topics, such as localisation of function. This links to the Approaches topic, and Year 1 Biopsychology content, in particular. Within Issues and Debates, students will discuss several concepts such as nature vs nurture. This will link to other topics such as Approaches, where some of the approaches fall into the nature side and some into the nurture side. In addition to this, students will consider the ethical implications of key psychological research and theories they looked at in Year 1,</p>	Past paper

		such as research into conformity and the impact of maternal deprivation.	
Term 1:2	Relationships Eating Behaviour	<p>The Relationships and Eating Behaviour topics are new topics for students to learn. The content in both of these is quite large and complex, so it is useful to focus on these towards the start of Year 13. Within the Paper 3 exam, the order of topics starts with Issues and Debates (covered in term 1:1), then Relationships and then Eating Behaviour, which is the order we follow in class too.</p> <p>Aspects of the Relationships topic link to previous topics. For example, one theory for parasocial relationships is linked to elements of the Attachment topic from Year 1. There are also aspects of the Eating Behaviour topic that link back to previous topics, such as the Learning Theory for food preferences, where students need to apply their knowledge of the Behaviourist approach to why people might be drawn to eat certain foods.</p>	Past paper
Term 2:1	Aggression	<p>The Aggression topic is the final new topic for students to learn. The content in this topic is quite large and complex. Within the Paper 3 exam, the order of topics has Aggression as the final topic, which is the order we follow in class too.</p> <p>Aspects of the Aggression topic link to previous topics. For example, the impact of genes and hormones are discussed in relation to aggression, and students already have some basic knowledge on this from the Approaches and Biopsychology topics.</p>	Past paper
Term 2:2	Revision / exams	All content will have been covered, to allow plenty of lesson time for revision. Past papers will be used to assess student knowledge and exam technique. Interventions will be organised according to need.	Past paper
Term 3:1	Revision / exams	All content will have been covered, to allow plenty of lesson time for revision. Past papers will be used to assess student knowledge and exam technique. Interventions will be organised	Past paper

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