

PCHS Curriculum Information

Course Title: Psychology	Exam Board: AQA	Specification Code:7182
<p>How will students be assessed?</p> <p>Students will sit three external exams at the end of Year 13</p> <p>Paper 1: Introductory Topics (Social influence, Attachment, Psychopathology and memory)</p> <p>Paper 2: Psychology in Context (Approaches in psychology. Biopsychology, Research methods)</p> <p>Paper 3: Issues and options in Psychology– Issues and debates and the options we study are Relationships, Schizophrenia and Forensic psychology</p> <p>10% of the marks are from maths content</p> <p>All exams are 2 hours in length and worth 33.3% of the A level marks and are a combination of multiple choice questions, short answer and extended writing</p>		

KEY CONTENT	
Teacher 1 – 7 Lessons per fortnight	Teacher 2 – 2 lessons per fortnight
<p>Half Term 1: Approaches in Psychology The basic assumptions of the following approaches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning approaches: i) the behaviourist approach, including classical conditioning and Pavlov's research, operant conditioning, types of reinforcement and Skinner's research; ii) social learning theory including imitation, identification, vicarious reinforcement, the role of mediational processes and Bandura's research. The cognitive approach: the study of internal mental processes, the role of schema, the use of models to explain and make inferences about mental processes. The biological approach: biological structures and neurochemistry on behaviour. Genotype and phenotype, genetic basis of behaviour, evolution and behaviour, cognitive neuroscience. The psychodynamic approach: the role of the unconscious, the structure of personality, that is Id, Ego and Superego, defence mechanisms including repression, denial and displacement, psychosexual stages. Humanistic Psychology: free will, self-actualisation and Maslow's hierarchy of needs,, congruence, the role of conditions of worth. Comparison of approaches. 	<p>Half Term 1-3 Social influence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Types of conformity: internalisation and compliance. <p>Explanations for conformity: informational social influence and normative social influence, and variables affecting conformity including group size, unanimity and task difficulty as investigated by Asch.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explanations for obedience: agentic state and legitimacy of authority, and situational variables affecting obedience including proximity and location, as investigated by Milgram, and uniform.
<p>Half Term 2: Attachment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animal studies of attachment: Lorenz and Harlow. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explanations of attachment: learning theory and Bowlby's monotropic theory. The concepts of a critical period and an internal working model. • Ainsworth's 'Strange Situation'. Types of attachment: secure, insecure-avoidant and insecure-resistant. Cultural variations in attachment, including van Ijzendoorn. • Bowlby's theory of maternal deprivation. effects of institutionalisation, incl the English and Romanian Adoptees project • The influence of early attachment on childhood and adult relationships, including the role of an internal working model. 	<p>Dispositional explanation for obedience: the Authoritarian Personality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explanations of resistance to social influence, including social support and locus of control. • Minority influence including reference to consistency, commitment and flexibility.
<p>Half Term 3: Research methods</p> <p>Scientific processes and techniques of data handling and analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experimental method. Types of experiment, laboratory and field experiments; natural and quasi-experiments. Experimental design, sampling methods, Pilot studies, variables, controls, demand characteristics • Observational techniques. Types of observation: naturalistic and controlled observation; covert and overt observation; participant and non-participant observation. Observational design. • Self-report techniques. Questionnaires; interviews, structured and unstructured. • Correlations. Analysis of the relationship between co-variables. The difference between correlations and experiments. <p>Ethical issues.</p> <p>Data Analysis</p> <p>Types and levels of data, descriptive statistics, presentation and display of data (graphs), calculation of percentages, distributions, normal and skewed distributions, introduction to inferential statistics and the Sign test</p>	<p>Half Term 4 & 5</p> <p>Memory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The multi-store model of memory: sensory register, short-term memory and long-term memory. Features of each store: coding, capacity and duration. • The working memory model: central executive, phonological loop, visuo-spatial sketchpad and episodic buffer. Features of the model: coding and capacity. • Explanations for forgetting: proactive and retroactive interference and retrieval failure due to absence of cues. • Factors affecting the accuracy of eyewitness testimony: leading questions,
<p>Half Term 4 & 5</p> <p>Clinical Psychology & Mental Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definitions in the field of mental health including deviation from social/cultural norms, failure to function adequately, statistical infrequency and deviation from ideal mental health. • The behavioural, emotional and cognitive characteristics of phobias, depression and obsessive-compulsive 	

<p>disorder (OCD).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The behavioural approach to explaining and treating phobias: the two-process model, including classical and operant conditioning; systematic desensitisation, including relaxation and use of hierarchy; flooding. • The cognitive approach to explaining and treating depression: Beck's negative triad and Ellis's ABC model; cognitive behaviour therapy (CBT), including challenging irrational thoughts. • The biological approach to explaining and treating OCD: genetic and neural explanations; drug therapy 	<p>post-event discussion; anxiety; the use of cognitive interview.</p>
<p>Half Term 6 Revision Y12 Summer Exam Review and Preview</p>	