

PCHS Curriculum Information

Course Title: Psychology	Exam Board: AQA	Specification Code:7182
How will students be assessed? Students will sit three external exams at the end of Year 13 Paper 1: Introductory Topics (Social influence, Attachment, Psychopathology and memory) Paper 2: Psychology in Context (Approaches in psychology. Biopsychology, Research methods) Paper 3: Issues and options in Psychology– Issues and debates and the options we study are Relationships, Schizophrenia and Forensic psychology 10% of the marks are from maths content 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		

KEY CONTENT	
Teacher 1 – 7 Lessons per fortnight	Teacher 2 – 2 lessons per fortnight
Half Term 1: Approaches in Psychology The basic assumptions of the following approaches: - 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.	Half Term 1-3 Social influence - Types of conformity: internalisation and compliance. 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. - Explanations for obedience: agentic state and legitimacy of authority, and situational variables affecting obedience including proximity and location, as investigated by Milgram, and uniform.
Half Term 2: Attachment Animal studies of attachment: Lorenz and Harlow.	

• 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.	Dispositional explanation for obedience: the Authoritarian Personality. • Explanations of resistance to social influence, including social support and locus of control. • Minority influence including reference to consistency, commitment and flexibility.
Research Methods and Clinical Psychology will be completed in blocks, interleaving each Unit. Half Term 3/4/5: Research methods Scientific processes and techniques of data handling and analysis Block 1 • Features of science: objectivity and the empirical method; replicability and falsifiability; theory construction and hypothesis testing; paradigms and paradigm shifts. • Experimental method. Types of experiment, laboratory and field experiments; natural and quasi-experiments. Experimental design, sampling methods, Pilot studies, variables, controls, demand characteristics • Reliability across all methods of investigation. Ways of assessing reliability: test-retest and inter-observer; improving reliability. • Types of validity across all methods of investigation: face validity, concurrent validity, ecological validity and temporal validity. Assessment of validity. Improving validity. • Ethical issues. Block 2 • 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.	Half Term 4 & 5 Memory • 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,

• Case Studies • Content Analysis Block 3 • Data Handling & Analysis Types and levels of data and measurements, descriptive statistics, presentation and display of data (graphs), calculation of percentages, distributions, normal and skewed distributions • Reporting psychological investigations. Sections of a scientific report: abstract, introduction, method, results, discussion and referencing. • Peer Review • Economic Implications	post-event discussion; anxiety; the use of cognitive interview.
Half Term 3/4/ 5 Clinical Psychology & Mental Health Block 1 • 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 approach to explaining and treating phobias: the two-process model, including classical and operant conditioning; systematic desensitisation, including relaxation and use of hierarchy; flooding. Block 2 • 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. Block 3 • The behavioural, emotional and cognitive characteristics of phobias, depression and obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD). The biological approach to explaining and treating OCD: genetic and neural explanations; drug therapy	
Half Term 6 Revision Y12 Summer Exam Review and Preview	

