

WHOLE YEAR CURRICULUM OVERVIEW 2026- 2027

KS5: PSYCHOLOGY – YEAR 13. YEAR 2.



Curriculum Overview: PSYCHOLOGY Year 13

10 hours over the fortnightly timetable = 6 Hours Teacher 1 (RP), 4 x hours Teacher 2 (CL)

Rationale: Psychology is a linear qualification, all the A-level exams are at the end of their A-level course. Year 2 consists of 3 x papers, with 11 (RM worth 2) topics overall. Students have fully learned all content for paper 1 at this point. The papers change as students enter year 2 Psychology, Clinical Psychology and Mental Health now goes into paper 1 and Biopsychology becomes a whole separate topic, Research Methods is now worth double marks on paper 2. Students start year 2 content after their exams in AS year- Summer term 2. This is important to ensure all content can be delivered in time. Students must ensure they now PEEL and extended essay questions are now worth 16 marks instead of 12 marks at AS level. Topics of Social, Memory, Attachment and Clinical Psychology and Mental Health - content is exactly the same however there is 'Year 2 add on' material- booklets for Approaches, Bio Psychology and research Methods for paper 2 which is delivered by October half term. Students have fully learned all of approaches AS and A Level by the start of the new academic year, student have also learned the 'research methods' section for A Level, scientific process for A level at this point. There are also 4 x brand new topics to learn for year 2 which make up paper 3 which are taught after October half term. Colour codes for each topic in terms of resources provided to students below:

Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology- 1. Social influence, 2. Memory, 3 Attachment 4. Clinical Psychology and Mental Health

Paper 2: Psychology in Context- 5 Approaches in Psychology, 6. Biopsychology, 7 Research methods

Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology: 8. Issues & Debates, 9.Option 1 Relationships, 10.Option 2 Schizophrenia, 11.Option 3 Aggression

Term	Topic	Basic outline of topic to be covered- Specification/Knowledge end points	Assessment	Home Learning	Resources	Assessment Objectives and Skills	Reading/Literacy
Y13 Autumn Term 1	Paper 2 Research Methods Year 2 'Add on' Section SHOULD HAVE BEEN COVERED IN AS SUMMER TERM 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Content analysis.Case studies. Section Scientific Processes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Features of scienceReliabilityValidity	Introduction to Year 2 Psychology – first lesson. Review summer work. Check all new year 2 content has been fully completed prior to the summer holidays. Research Methods Year 2- New content for the new academic year Year 2 'Add on' Inferential Statistics: <ol style="list-style-type: none">Both teachers to carry out an introduction lesson (recap prior topic learning for RM year 2 content covered in summer term)Probability and significance. Use of statistical tables and critical values in interpretation of significance. Type I and Type II errors. RPLevels of Measurement RPFactors affecting the choice of statistical test, including level of measurement and experimental design. CLIntroduction to statistical testing RP<ul style="list-style-type: none">The sign test. When to use the sign test; calculation of the sign test.Spearman's rho RPPearson's r RPWilcoxon CLMann-Whitney CLrelated t-test RPunrelated t-test RPChi-Squared test RP	Progress: See PPTs- in class activities every lesson. Completed worksheets to check understanding – online digital textbook bundle. Final: Completion of AQA past questions 'Student friendly handouts' for each specification area listed. Students store this in their assessment folders- Year 2 End/mid topic knowledge tests/timed questions PPEs in Jan	Writing tasks- Completion of AQA past questions 'Student friendly handouts' for each specification area Creation of Consolidation cards for each of the tests	RM 'ADD ON' BOOKLET- orange Copy of the full course materials in Teachers folder/R drive/HOD memory stick. Full PPTS & worksheets on file	Students will be expected to:-- Demonstrate knowledge AO1 -Apply psychological knowledge and understanding in a range of contexts -Analyse, interpret and evaluate AO3 Other skills: -Oracy skills -Use of subject specific language/scientific terminology -Reading/ assessing material -Formulating & answering questions -Independent learning skills -Note making. Flipped classroom - Mathematical skills- Selecting and conducting statistical tests. using statistical tables - Critical thinking skills -Summarising key points - Problem solving - reflection, self assessment and critical appraisal -Analytic skills -Group work skills -Discussion skills - Exam technique - Time management - QWC	Guided reading tasks Independent reading tasks Text book support and guidance AQA Extracts taken directly from psychological research texts Focus on interpretations of STEM content used in questions Understanding of command words Further reading: Psychology Review Magazine and current articles BPS Ethical Guidelines

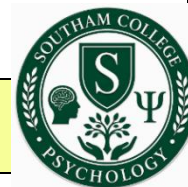
Term	Topic	Basic outline of topic to be covered- Specification/Knowledge	Assessment	Home Learning	Resources	Assessment Objectives and Skills	Reading/Literacy
	Paper 2 Bio Psychology Topic Content covered AS: - Divisions of the nervous system -Structure and function of neurons. -The process of synaptic transmission. -The function of the endocrine system -The fight or flight response	New content for the new academic year 'Year 2 Add on' Bio Psychology booklet (RP will have slightly more hours in 2025-26) 1.Ways of studying the brain: scanning techniques, including functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI); electroencephalogram (EEGs) and event-related potentials (ERPs); postmortem examinations. RP 2.Localisation of function in the brain and hemispheric lateralisation: The 4 x language centres. Also Broca's and Wernicke's areas RP 3.Plasticity and functional recovery of the brain after trauma RP 4.Split brain research into hemispheric lateralisation RP Note: Finish off any Biopsychology if needed- Biopsychology must be finished before half term otherwise risk of not completing course in time with loss of time for PPEs next term. End of topic tests on RM/Biopsychology.	Progress: See PPTs- in class activities every lesson. Completed worksheets to check understanding – online digital textbook bundle. Final: Completion of AQA past questions 'Student friendly handouts' for each specification area listed. Students store this in their assessment folders- Year 2 End/mid topic knowledge tests/timed questions/essays PPEs in Jan/Feb	Writing and self-assessment tasks- Completion of AQA past questions 'Student friendly handouts' for each specification area set after each lesson content completed for Biopsychology Creation of independent section Revision tools	Bio Psychology 'ADD ON' BOOKLET- Red Copy of the full course materials in Teachers folder/R drive/HOD memory stick. Full PPTS & worksheets on file	Students will be expected to: -Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of psychological concepts, theories, research studies, in relation to the topic of Biopsych AO1 -Apply psychological knowledge and understanding the topic in a range of contexts in Biopsych AO2 -Analyse, interpret and evaluate psychological concepts, theories, research studies in relation to the topic of Biopsych AO3 -Knowledge and understanding of research methods, practical research skills and mathematical skills will be assessed in both topics Other skills: -Oracy skills Use of subject specific language/scientific terminology -Reading/ assessing material -Formulating & answering questions -Independent learning skills -Note making -Summarising key points and presenting to class - Problem solving/using understanding of theory and research findings - Reflection, self assessment and critical appraisal -Analytic skills -Group work skills -Discussion skills -Developing lines of argument - Essay writing - Exam technique - Time management - Decision making - QWC	Guided reading tasks Independent reading tasks Text book support and guidance AQA Extracts taken directly from psychological research texts Focus on interpretations of STEM content used in questions Understanding of command words Further reading: Psychology Review Magazine and current articles BPS Ethical Guidelines Key concept definitions Biopsychology Localisation Lateralisation Plasticity Functional recovery

OCT HALF TERM	Students are set an 'Independent project' for the topic of BioPsychology to complete over the half term holiday. This is reviewed in lesson during the first week back- consolidation of BioPsychology topic. All of Research Methods also fully finished. Paper 2 now fully completed. Set some consolidation on BioPsychology and Research Methods.						
Term	Topic	Basic outline of topic to be covered- Specification/Knowledge	Assessment	Home Learning	Resources	Assessment Objectives and Skills	Reading/Literacy
Y13 Autumn Term 2	Paper 3- Option: Schizophrenia RP	<p>New exercise book needed- Year 2 book 2– Schizophrenia in the front, Aggression in the back.</p> <p>Topic: Schizophrenia 1.Introduction to Schizophrenia. Positive symptoms of schizophrenia including hallucinations and delusions. Negative symptoms of schizophrenia including speech poverty and avolition.</p> <p>2. Issues in diagnosis: co-morbidity, culture and gender bias and symptom overlap.</p> <p>3. Biological explanations for schizophrenia: genetics and neural correlates, including the dopamine hypothesis.</p> <p>4. Psychological explanations for schizophrenia: family dysfunction and cognitive explanations, including dysfunctional thought processing.</p> <p>Start the topic of Aggression before the Christmas holidays to- all of the Social Psychological & Biological Explanations prior to Christmas.</p>	<p>Progress: See PPTs- in class activities every lesson. Completed worksheets check understanding – online digital textbook bundle.</p> <p>Final: Completion of AQA past questions 'Student friendly handouts' for each area.</p> <p>Students store in their assessment folders- Year 2</p> <p>End/mid topic knowledge tests/timed questions</p> <p>PPEs in Jan/Feb</p>	<p>Writing and self-assessment tasks- Completion of AQA past questions 'Student friendly handouts' for each specification area set after each lesson content completed for SZ</p> <p>Creation of independent section</p> <p>Interactionist approach during teaching of topic</p> <p>Writing and self-assessment tasks- Completion of AQA past questions 'Student friendly handouts' for each specification area</p> <p>Creation of independent section- FAH</p>	<p>SCHIZOPHRENIA BOOKLETS – mid/dark blue</p> <p>Copy of the full course materials in Teachers folder/R drive/HOD memory stick.</p> <p>Full PPTS & worksheets on file</p> <p>AGGRESSION BOOKLETS- dark purple</p> <p>Copy of the full course materials in Teachers folder/R drive/HOD memory stick.</p> <p>Full PPTS & worksheets on file</p>	<p>Students will be expected to:- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of psychological concepts, theories, research studies, in relation to the topic of Biopsych AO1</p> <p>-Apply psychological knowledge and understanding the topic in a range of contexts in Biopsych AO2</p> <p>-Analyse, interpret and evaluate psychological concepts, theories, research studies in relation to the topic of Biopsych AO3</p> <p>-Knowledge and understanding of research methods, practical research skills and mathematical skills will be assessed in both topics</p> <p>Other skills: -Oracy skills Use of subject specific language/scientific terminology -Reading/ assessing material -Formulating & answering questions -Independent learning skills -Note making -Summarising key points and presenting to class - Problem solving/using understanding of theory and research findings - Reflection, self assessment and critical appraisal -Analytic skills -Group work skills -Discussion skills -Developing lines of argument - Essay writing - Exam technique - Time management - Decision making - QWC</p>	<p>Guided reading tasks Independent reading tasks Text book support and guidance AQA Extracts taken directly from psychological research texts Focus on interpretations of STEM content used in questions Understanding of command words Further reading: Psychology Review Magazine and current articles BPS Ethical Guidelines</p> <p>Key concept definitions <u>Schizophrenia</u> Delusions Hallucinations Avolition Candidate genes Dopamine Dysfunction Antipsychotics</p> <p>Key concept definitions <u>Aggression</u> Indirect learning Social learning theory Deindividuation Frustration Aggression Hypothesis Institution</p>
END TERM	Christmas holidays- Students are set an 'Independent project' to complete their own resource/booklet over the holiday on 'The Frustration-Aggression Hypothesis' This is outlined in basic by the teacher- students complete themselves and teach Knowledge on this after first week back. Set some revision to support end of topics covered so far in preparation for their PPEs.						



Term / Length	Topic	Basic outline of topic to be covered- Specification/Knowledge	Assessment	Home Learning	Resources	Assessment Objectives and Skills	Reading/Literacy
	<p>Paper 3- Option: Aggression (continued) CL</p> <p>Paper 3 option- Schizophrenia a continued RP</p> <p>Paper 3 Issues and Debates in Psychology RP</p> <p>Paper 3: Option: Relationships CL</p>	<p>Topic- Aggression continued- (3 weeks after Xmas needed on this- only)</p> <p>8. The ethological explanation of aggression</p> <p>9. Evolutionary explanations of human aggression.</p> <p>10. Media influences on aggression, including the effects of computer games.</p> <p>11. Explanations of Media influences on aggression- The role of desensitisation, disinhibition and cognitive priming.</p> <p>Topic: Schizophrenia continued-</p> <p>5. Biological therapies- Drug therapy- typical and atypical antipsychotics</p> <p>6. Psychological therapies- Cognitive behaviour therapy and family therapy as used in the treatment of schizophrenia.</p> <p>7. The importance of an interactionist approach in explaining and treating schizophrenia; the diathesis-stress model.</p> <p>Topic: Issues and Debates</p> <p>1. Gender in Psychology – universality and bias, androcentrism and alpha and beta bias</p> <p>2. Cultural Bias in Psychology, including ethnocentrism and cultural relativism.</p> <p>3. Free will and determinism: hard determinism and soft determinism; biological, environmental and psychic determinism. The scientific emphasis on causal explanations.</p> <p>Topic - Relationships New Exercise book needed – Relationships front of book, Issues and Debates back of book. Also year 2 assessment folder for CL.</p> <p>1. An introduction to Relationships- Factors affecting attraction in romantic relationships: Filter Theory</p> <p>2. Factors affecting attraction in romantic relationships: self-disclosure;</p> <p>3. Factors affecting attraction in romantic relationships: physical attractiveness, including the matching hypothesis</p> <p>4. Theories of romantic relationships: social exchange theory</p> <p>5. Theories of romantic relationships: equity theory</p> <p>6. Theories of romantic relationships: Rusbult's investment model</p> <p>7. Duck's phase model of relationship breakdown: intra-psychic, dyadic, social and grave dressing phases.</p>	<p>Progress: See PPTs- class activities every lesson. Completed worksheets check understanding – online digital bundle.</p> <p>Final: Completion of AQA past questions 'Student friendly handouts'. Store in their assessment folders- yr 2</p> <p>End/mid topic knowledge tests/timed questions. PPEs in Feb</p> <p>Progress: See PPTs- class activities every lesson. Completed worksheets check understanding – online digital bundle.</p> <p>Final: Completion of AQA past questions 'Student friendly handouts'. Students store in their assessment folders- yr 2</p> <p>End/mid topic knowledge tests/timed questions.</p>	<p>Writing tasks- Completion of AQA past questions set after each lesson content</p> <p>Creation of independent section</p> <p>Ethological section. Pre reading notes on Media.</p> <p>Writing and self-assessment tasks- Completion of AQA past questions 'Student friendly handouts' for each specification area set after each lesson content</p> <p>Independent section – Rusbult's theory and physical attractiveness</p>	<p>AGRRESION BOOKLETS- dark purple</p> <p>Copy of the full course materials in Teachers folder/R drive/HOD memory stick.</p> <p>Full PPTS & worksheets on file</p> <p>RELATIONSHIPS BOOKLETS- baby pink</p> <p>Copy of the full course materials in Teachers folder/R drive/HOD memory stick.</p> <p>Full PPTS & worksheets on file</p>	<p>Students will be expected to:</p> <p>- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of psychological concepts, theories, research studies, in relation to the topic of Biopsych AO1</p> <p>- Apply psychological knowledge and understanding the topic in a range of contexts in Biopsych AO2</p> <p>- Analyse, interpret and evaluate psychological concepts, theories, research studies in relation to the topic of Biopsych AO3</p> <p>- Knowledge and understanding of research methods, practical research skills and mathematical skills will be assessed in both topics</p> <p>Other skills:</p> <p>- Oracy skills</p> <p>- Use of subject specific language/scientific terminology</p> <p>- Reading/ assessing material</p> <p>- Formulating & answering questions</p> <p>- Independent learning skills</p> <p>- Note making</p> <p>- Summarising key points and presenting to class</p> <p>- Problem solving/using understanding of theory and research findings</p> <p>- Reflection, self assessment and critical appraisal</p> <p>- Analytic skills</p> <p>- Group work skills</p> <p>- Discussion skills</p> <p>- Developing lines of argument</p> <p>- Essay writing</p> <p>- Exam technique</p> <p>- Time management</p> <p>- Decision making</p> <p>- QWC</p>	<p>Guided reading tasks</p> <p>Independent reading tasks</p> <p>Text book support and guidance AQA</p> <p>Extracts taken directly from psychological research texts</p> <p>Focus on interpretations of STEM content used in questions</p> <p>Understanding of command words</p> <p>Further reading: Psychology Review Magazine and current articles</p> <p>BPS Ethical Guidelines</p> <p>Key concept definitions</p> <p>Aggression</p> <p>Limbic system</p> <p>Serotonin</p> <p>MAOA gene</p> <p>Fixed action pattern</p> <p>Frustration-aggression hypothesis</p> <p>Neural</p> <p>Hormonal including testosterone and progesterone</p> <p>Genes including MAOA</p> <p>MZ</p> <p>DZ</p> <p>Ethological</p> <p>Evolutionary</p> <p>Mate retention strategies</p> <p>Key concept definitions</p> <p>Relationships</p> <p>Filter</p> <p>Self-disclosure</p> <p>Social demography</p> <p>Equity</p> <p>Absence of gating</p> <p>Deception</p>
FEB HALF TERM	<p>Students are set an 'Independent section project' to create and complete their own resource/booklet over the holiday on Relationships</p> <p>Content to be covered- Rusbults Investment Model</p>						

Term / Length	Topic	Basic outline of topic to be covered- Specification/Knowledge	Assessment	Home Learning	Resources	Assessment Objectives and Skills	Reading/Literacy
	<p>Paper 3 Option Relationships CL</p> <p>Paper 3 Issues and Debates in Psychology RP</p>	<p>Topic: Relationships (Continued- 4 lessons only on content left)</p> <p>8. Online relationships: self-disclosure, use of deception, effects of absence of gating</p> <p>9. Parasocial relationships: levels of parasocial relationships, the absorption addiction model and the attachment theory explanation.</p> <p>Topic- Issues and debates in Psychology</p> <p>4.The nature-nurture debate: the relative importance of heredity and environment in determining behaviour; the interactionist approach.</p> <p>5.Holism and reductionism: levels of explanation in Psychology. Biological reductionism and environmental (stimulus-response) reductionism.</p> <p>6.Idiographic and nomothetic approaches to psychological investigation.</p> <p>7. Social sensitivity in psychological research.</p>	o	<p>Writing - Completion of AQA past questions 'Student friendly handouts' revision template plans for each specification area</p> <p>Past Q booklet practice I & D topic</p> <p>Flipped learning/pre reading notes. Summer project completed during year 12.</p>	<p>ISSUES & DEBATES BOOKLET- Green</p> <p>Copy of the full course materials in Teachers folder/R drive/HOD memory stick.</p> <p>Full PPTS & worksheets on file</p>	<p>Students will be expected to:</p> <p>-Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of psychological concepts, theories, research studies, in relation to the topic of Biopsych AO1</p> <p>-Apply psychological knowledge and understanding the topic in a range of contexts in Biopsych AO2</p> <p>-Analyse, interpret and evaluate psychological concepts, theories, research studies in relation to the topic of Biopsych AO3</p> <p>-Knowledge and understanding of research methods, practical research skills and mathematical skills will be assessed in both topics</p> <p>Other skills:</p> <p>-Oracy skills Use of subject specific language/scientific terminology -Reading/ assessing material -Formulating & answering questions -Independent learning skills -Note making -Summarising key points and presenting to class - Problem solving/using understanding of theory and research findings - Reflection, self assessment and critical appraisal -Analytic skills -Group work skills -Discussion skills -Developing lines of argument - Essay writing - Exam technique - Time management - Decision making - QWC</p>	<p>Guided reading tasks Independent reading tasks Text book support and guidance AQA Extracts taken directly from psychological research texts Focus on interpretations of STEM content used in questions Understanding of command words Further reading: Psychology Review Magazine and current articles BPS Ethical Guidelines</p> <p>Key concept definitions Issues and debates Nature Nurture Diathesis-stress model Reductionism Holism Idiographic Nomothetic Social sensitivity</p>
END OF	EASTER HOLIDAYS- Students to have the opportunity to attend revision sessions during the holiday. Revision period.						



Term / Length	Topic	Basic outline of topic to be covered- Specification/Knowledge	Assessment	Home Learning	Resources	Assessment Objectives and Skills	Reading/Literacy
Y13 Summer term 1	Issues & Debates	Ideally all content is taught before the Easter holiday to allow sufficient time to start revision in lessons. However, sometimes the final section of Issues & Debates/Relationships may run over into this because of PPE interference with class time- if this is the case a maximum of 1-2 weeks only on content can be used in this time if needed. All Issues & Debates must be finished by this point.	Progress: See PPTs- class activities every lesson. Completed worksheets check understanding – online digital bundle.	Writing past Q, self-assessment, reflection tasks and checklists	ALL BOOKLETS COMPLETED	Students will be expected to: -Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of psychological concepts, theories, research studies, in relation to all topics of Year 1&2 A01 -Apply psychological knowledge and understanding the topic in a range of contexts in relation to all year 1&2 -Analyse, interpret and evaluate psychological concepts, theories, research studies in relation to all topics of all yr1&2 - AO3 -Knowledge and understanding of research methods, practical research skills and mathematical skills will be assessed through all topics of year 1 &2 Psychology	
	All content revision time	<p>Consolidation & Revision on Year 2 topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research Methods 2. BioPsychology 3. Schizophrenia 4. Aggression 5. Relationships 6. Issues & Debates <p>Revision for year 1 topics to be built in via lunchtimes, afterschool and holiday sessions programme- starts in January runs through to June.</p> <p>YEAR 13 STUDENTS LEAVE SCHOOL 1 TO 2 WEEKS BEFORE MAY HALF TERM- SEE EXAMS CALENDAR/BY FOR DECISION ON EXACT DATE</p>	<p>Final: Completion of AQA past questions 'Student friendly handouts'.</p> <p>Completion of past papers/knowledge tests/timed questions.</p> <p>Real life exams</p>	Revision tool evidence from students – teacher to check	<p>Copy of the full course materials in Teachers folder/R drive/HOD memory stick.</p> <p>Full PPTS & worksheets on file</p>	<p>Other skills:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Oracy skills Independent learning skills -Note making -Reflection skills - Mathematical skills - Critical thinking skills -Summarising - Reflection, self assessment and critical appraisal - Revision strategies and skills -Developing lines of argument - Consolidating and strengthening knowledge and understanding, analysis, application, evaluation - Essay writing - Exam technique - Time management - Decision making - Posing and responding to questions - QWC 	
MAY HALF TERM	EXAMINATION PERIOD- Students have left school in May. However, still offer sessions when lessons would be for students to be able to attend for revision/extra guidance.						

