

Psychology KS5 Curriculum Overview

Links to KS4		Psychology is a new subject for LPA students at KS5. They will draw on knowledge from KS4 as follows: Maths: Statistics. Students will have used mean, median, mode and range. They will develop this further by looking at standard deviation and also inferential statistics. Science: Understanding the scientific method; the need to isolate the independent variable while measuring the dependent variable in order to establish cause and effect. They will develop their critical thinking skills by evaluating the extent to which psychology researchers are able to control extraneous variables. Sociology: Students that studied sociology at GCSE will recognise some aspects of research methods including sampling techniques.					
Intent	Statement of Intent	Students will develop critical thinking skills and a thorough understanding of the scientific method. They will be able to evaluate research based on issues such as generalisability and validity. They will also develop an understanding of wider issues and debates for society such as the issue of social control or issues around culture and gender. Through their studies of key theories and research, students will be able to explain and predict elements of human behaviour which will be a valuable skill not only in directly related further study and careers but other fields such as business, education and public services.					
	Timeline	Term 1 - 7 Weeks	Term 2 - 7 Weeks	Term 3 - 6 Weeks	Term 4 - 6 Weeks	Term 5 - 6 Weeks	Term 6 - 7 Weeks
Implementation (Year 12)	Year 12 Overview	Students will begin with an introduction to other scientific method and research methods. This will give them the tools to begin to evaluate the research that they will study throughout the course. During the rest of the year they will cover four different approaches to psychology: Social, Cognitive, Learning and Biological. They will discuss the 11 issues and debates as and when they arise within each topic area but they won't be studied as a distinct topic until the end of year 12, they will then revisit at the end of year 13 to add further detail from year 2 content. Throughout the entire course, students will consider how individual differences and developmental issues affect behaviour.					
	SOW	Research Methods, Social Psychology (Obedience) & Cognitive - Memory		Biological - CNS & Aggression Learning - Phobias		Issues and Debates Research Methods	
	Assessment Type & Unit Focus	RP1 - Terminology / initial content. 2 x 40 min tests (Sept/Oct). Research Methods Scientific method; key vocab; evaluating research using GRAVE framework. Social Obedience & Prejudice - Key studies: Milgram; Burger; Sherif et al. Key theories: Agency; Social Impact; Realistic conflict. Cognitive Memory - Key studies: Baddeley; Sebastian & Hernandez-Gil; HM. Key theories: MSM; WMM; Tulving LTM and Reconstructive memory.		RP2/PPE 1 - SAMs social and cognitive sections from paper 1 (Jan) Biological Key studies - Brendgen; Raine. Key theories: Freud; Brain structure as an explanation of aggression; Hormones as an explanation of aggression; Evolution as an explanation of aggression. Other content: CNS, neurotransmission and effects of drugs. Learning Key studies - Watson & Rayner; Capafons; Pavlov. Bandura Key theories - Classical conditioning; operant conditioning; social learning theory.		RP3/PPE3 - SAMs social and cognitive sections from paper 1 (Jul) Consolidation of content from previous terms. Specific focus on issues and debates. Developing skills for extended writing - looking towards 20 mark essays in year 2.	
Implementation (Year 13)	Year 13 Overview	In year 2 of the course, students explore how the approaches studied in year 1 are applied to clinical psychology and criminal psychology. They will learn how different approaches explain the causes of mental illness with a focus on Anorexia and Schizophrenia and how they would inform treatments. They will also look at key issues for society such as the unreliability of eye-witness testimony and factors that can affect jury decision making. They will continue to discuss the 11 issues and debates within the applications including a discussion around mental health treatments as a form of social control and the nature-nurture debate in the context of mental illness.					
	SOW	Psychological Skills				Psychological Skills	Exam Prep
	Assessment Type & Unit Focus	Clinical Psychology Issues with defining abnormality and diagnosing mental illness. Understanding classification systems (DSM & ICD). Key study: Rosenhan: 'on being sane in insane places' Criminal Psychology Labelling, self-fulfilling prophecy and applying social learning theory to criminal behaviour.	RP1/PPE 1 - Assessment of clinical and criminal content delivered so far. Clinical Psychology Schizophrenia - features & symptoms, explanations and treatments. Key study: Carlsson Criminal Psychology Biological explanations of criminal behaviour: XXY syndrome and brain structure.	Clinical Psychology Anorexia - features & symptoms, explanations and treatments. Key study: Guardia Criminal Psychology Treatments for criminal behaviour: Diet; CBT Research Methods Review of all research methods and completion of practicals.	RP2 - Paper 1 (foundations) and Paper 2 (applications) Clinical Psychology Research methods in Clinical Psychology. Criminal Psychology Psychology in the criminal justice system: Police interviews; Eye-witness testimony and jury decision making. Research Methods Continuation of practicals.	RP3/PPE2 - Paper 1, Paper 2 & Paper 3 (Psychological Skills) Preparation for paper 3 Students will practice for this synoptic paper by applying knowledge to unseen stimuli. Review of all issues and debates, research methods and statistics.	Targeted revision sessions, small group tutorials and pre-exam booster sessions.
	Topic Texts	The Tale of the Dueling Neurosurgeons - Sam Kean Shrinks: A History of Psychiatry - Jeffrey Lieberman					
Impact	Year 12 Review Points	RP1: T1, Wk3		RP2 (PPE1): T3, Wk2			RP3 (PPE2): T6, Wk4
	Year 13 Review Points	RP1 (PPE1): T2, Wk1				RP2: T4, Wk1	RP3 (PPE2): T5, Wk1
	How It Is Used / Skills Set Developed / Outcomes	Evaluating research develops critical thinking skills. Students are encouraged to consider the generalisability, validity, objectivity and source of research claims made in the press or on social media. They are taught common pitfalls such as confirmation bias, regression to the mean and randomness to help with this. The use of scenarios encourages students to apply their learning to behaviour they see around them and in current affairs.					
	Links to Higher Education	Psychology A level is not a pre-requisite for a degree and so year 1 will repeat a lot of A level content which means LPA students are getting a strong foundation to build from. 'Beyond A level' starter activities also show students additional content such as child psychology and perception.					
	Careers in the Curriculum	Throughout the course, we update our careers board using genuine adverts from the British Psychological Society magazine. We also incorporate careers into starter activities looking at psychology related career options.					