

YEAR 12 | A LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY

The curriculum and assessment of students at this stage of education has been carefully designed to promote deep learning of psychology:

- » to create opportunities for students to observe and understand psychology in everyday contexts such as the news, films and public sector work to develop research methods skills based on research methods foundations explored last year.
- » to develop knowledge and understanding of a broad range of psychological topics, including an awareness of the synoptic nature of the subject.
- » to develop effective writing skills to enable exam success.
- » to develop understanding of the importance and process of psychological research.
- » to provide students with independent study skills necessary for higher education.

HALF TERM 1

All students will know:

- » Social influence - conformity, including Asch and Zimbardo.
- » Approaches - behaviourist and social learning theory, cognitive and biological, psychodynamic and humanistic.
- » Aspects of research methods investigations.

All students will be assessed:

- » Combination of pop quizzes and exam-style questions.
- » At least one timed assessment per topic above.

Reading skills needed for this unit:

- » Reading for information.
- » Summarising key points.
- » Understanding command words.

Key vocabulary:

Conformity, compliance, identification, internalisation, imitation, observation, modelling, vicarious reinforcement, operant conditioning, classical conditioning, information processing, cognitive bias, genotype, phenotype, neurotransmitter id, ego, superego, defence mechanisms, repression, displacement, denial, positive self regard, conditions of worth, hierarchy of needs.

HALF TERM 2

All students will know:

- » Obedience, including Milgram.
- » Resistance to social influence.
- » Approaches – comparison of approaches.
- » Memory - MSM and types of LTM, WM, forgetting.
- » Aspects of research methods design.

All students will be assessed:

- » Combination of pop quizzes and exam-style questions.
- » At least one timed assessment per topic above.

Reading skills needed for this unit:

- » Reading for information.
- » Summarising key points.
- » Understanding command words.

Key vocabulary:

Obedience, agentic state, autonomous state, authoritarian personality, encoding, duration, capacity, episodic, semantic, procedural, visuospatial sketchpad, phonological loop, central executive, retrieval failure, interference theory.

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HALF TERM 3

All students will know:

- » Minority Influence.
- » Social change.
- » Memory – EWT and cognitive interview.
- » Aspects of research methods design.

All students will be assessed:

- » Combination of pop quizzes and exam-style questions.
- » At least one timed assessment per topic above.

Reading skills needed for this unit:

- » Reading for information.
- » Summarising key points.
- » Understanding command words.

Key vocabulary:

Consistency, commitment, flexibility, social cryptoamnesia, reconstructive memory.

HALF TERM 4

All students will know:

- » Psychopathology - definitions of abnormality.
- » Attachment theories and the strange situation.
- » Attachment explanations – Bowlby, and learning theory.
- » Aspects of research methods data display.

All students will be assessed:

- » Combination of pop quizzes and exam-style questions.
- » At least one timed assessment per topic above.

Reading skills needed for this unit:

- » Reading for information.
- » Summarising key points.
- » Understanding command words.

Key vocabulary:

Histogram, frequency polygon, pie chart, secure/insecure attachment.

HALF TERM 5

All students will know:

- » Biopsychology - the nervous system and the synapse.
- » Attachment – maternal deprivation hypothesis, child and adult relationships.
- » Depression, OCD and phobias - explanations.
- » Aspects of research methods data analysis.

All students will be assessed:

- » Combination of pop quizzes and exam-style questions.
- » At least one timed assessment per topic above.

Reading skills needed for this unit:

- » Reading for information.
- » Summarising key points.
- » Understanding command words.

Key vocabulary:

Synapse, receptor, somatic, autonomic, sympathetic, parasympathetic, faulty cognitions, classical conditioning, maternal deprivation hypothesis, internal working model, sign test, measures of central tendency, measures of dispersion.

HALF TERM 6

All students will know:

- » Biopsychology - the endocrine system, fight or flight.
- » Depression, OCD and phobias – treatments.
- » Aspects of research methods data analysis.
- » Revision of key ideas

All students will be assessed:

- » Combination of pop quizzes and exam-style questions.
- » At least one timed assessment per topic above.
- » End of year exams for each topic.

Reading skills needed for this unit:

- » Reading for information.
- » Summarising key points.
- » Understanding command words.

Key vocabulary:

Endocrine system, hormone, Adrenal glands, adrenalin, CBT, serotonin, dopamine, systematic desensitisation.

HOW STUDENTS CAN BE SUPPORTED AT HOME

Refer to module handbook, including e.g. www.simplypsychology.co.uk

HOW THIS LEARNING WILL BE EMBEDDED ELSEWHERE IN THE CURRICULUM

Research methods taught within sociology.
Biopsychology links to biology A level.

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The curriculum and assessment of students at this stage of education has been carefully designed to promote deep learning of psychology and equip them with skills for future learning:

- » to create opportunities for students to observe and understand psychology in everyday contexts such as the news, films and public sector work to develop research methods skills based on research methods foundations explored last year.
- » to build on year 1 A level skills to explore wider context of psychology which will include year 2 A level content.
- » to develop effective writing skills to enable exam success.
- » to develop understanding of the importance and process of psychological research.
- » to provide students with independent study skills necessary for higher education.

HALF TERM 1

All students will know:

- » Issues and debates - gender and culture, freewill and determinism.
- » Biopsychology - Localisation and lateralisation of function, biological rhythms.

All students will be assessed:

- » Combination of pop quizzes and exam-style questions.
- » At least one timed assessment per topic above.

Reading skills needed for this unit:

- » Reading for information.
- » Summarising key points.
- » Understanding command words.

Key vocabulary:

Androcentrism, ethnocentrism, hard determinism, sexual selection, localisation, lateralisation, plasticity, functional recovery.

HALF TERM 2

All students will know:

- » Issues and debates - nature/nurture, idiographic/nomothetic, holism/reductionism Ethical implications.
- » Research methods - case studies, content analyses and statistical testing.

All students will be assessed:

- » Combination of pop quizzes and exam-style questions.
- » At least one timed assessment per topic above.
- » Students complete mock exams in December.

Reading skills needed for this unit:

- » Reading for information.
- » Summarising key points.
- » Understanding command words.

Key vocabulary:

Innate, environmental, idiographic, nomothetic, content analysis, Wilcoxon, Mann-Whitney, Spearman's Rank, t-test, sign test.

HOW THIS LEARNING WILL BE EMBEDDED ELSEWHERE IN THE CURRICULUM

Research methods taught within sociology.
Biopsychology links to biology A level.

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HALF TERM 3

All students will know:

- » Relationships - evolutionary perspective, physical attraction.
- » Relationships - theories of the formation of relationships.
- » Addictive behaviour - explanations and risk factors.
- » Addictive behaviour - treatments.

All students will be assessed:

- » Combination of pop quizzes and exam-style questions.
- » At least one timed assessment per topic above.

Reading skills needed for this unit:

- » Reading for information.
- » Summarising key points.
- » Understanding command words.

Key vocabulary:

Filter theory, matching hypothesis social exchange theory, equity theory, dopamine hypothesis, addiction model, stages of change model, theory of planned behaviour, agonist/antagonist gambler's fallacy, cognitive bias, variable ratio reinforcement.

HALF TERM 4

All students will know:

- » Schizophrenia - diagnosis and classification.
- » Schizophrenia - explanations and treatments.
- » Relationship breakdown.
- » Virtual relationships and parasocial relationships.

All students will be assessed:

- » Combination of pop quizzes and exam-style questions.
- » At least one timed assessment per topic above.

Reading skills needed for this unit:

- » Reading for information.
- » Summarising key points.
- » Understanding command words.

Key vocabulary:

Positive/negative symptoms, catatonic, dopamine, diathesis-stress model, antipsychotic, social penetration theory, gating, absorption.

HALF TERM 5

All students will know:

Revision.

All students will be assessed:

- » Combination of pop quizzes and exam-style questions.
- » At least one timed assessment per topic above.
- » Students complete mock exams in March.

Reading skills needed for this unit:

- » Reading for information.
- » Summarising key points.
- » Understanding command words.

Key vocabulary:

As previous

HOW STUDENTS CAN BE SUPPORTED AT HOME

Refer to module handbook, including e.g. www.simplypsychology.co.uk

