



## PSYCHOLOGY CURRICULUM MAP

Intent: By the end of the A Level course, Psychology students will have an in-depth critical understanding of psychological concepts, theories and research methods. They will have a practical knowledge of how to design and evaluate research using a variety of quantitative and qualitative methods, and will be proficient in the presentation and analysis of statistical and qualitative data. They will have developed highly-valued skills, including critical analysis, independent critical thinking and research skills, and will be able to apply their knowledge of psychology to the analysis of new situations and examples of human behaviour. By the end of the course students will have in in-depth critical understanding of how science works and the value of the scientific method.

Through their study of Psychology students will gain insight into their own behaviour and the behaviour of others, improving their self-awareness, selfacceptance, tolerance and respect for others. They will gain a critical insight into mental health issues and different approaches to treatment and therapy, along with other knowledge that they can use to improve their psychological well-being (for example, the Humanistic approach to the self and personal growth and fulfilment). Students will gain knowledge that they can apply to their own families and relationships, such as attachment and cognitive development, and gain an understanding of important aspects of their relationships with others, such as obedience, conformity, minority influence and aggression. They will also develop a critical understanding of cultural variations in behaviour, and how information can be culturally or gender-biased.

**Key Stage 5: A levels**

<b>YEAR 12</b>	<b>Research methods</b>	<b>Memory</b>	<b>Approaches</b>	<b>Social Influence</b>	<b>Attachment</b>	<b>Clinical Psychology and Mental Health</b>
<b>Key Knowledge</b>	Experimental methods and design Non-experimental methods and design Ethics of research Descriptive and inferential statistics	Types of memory Models of memory Theories of forgetting Eyewitness testimony	Learning approach Cognitive approach Biological approach Psychodynamic approach Humanistic approach Comparison of approaches	Conformity Obedience Resisting social influence Minority influence Social change	Infant-caregiver relationships Animal attachments Theories of attachment Cultural variations Deprivation Adult attachment	Definitions of abnormality Phobias, depression and OCD – characteristics, explanation, treatment
<b>Key subjects Skills</b>	Design and evaluation of experimental and non-experimental methods Skills of statistical analysis	Description and evaluation of theory and research Application of knowledge to new scenarios	Description and evaluation of theory and research Application of knowledge to new scenarios	Description and evaluation of theory and research Application of knowledge to new scenarios	Description and evaluation of theory and research Application of knowledge to new scenarios	Description and evaluation of theory and research Application of knowledge to new scenarios
<b>Personal development:</b> • RSE • Online safety • Enrichment	Ethical issues and importance of respect for personal dignity.	Application of knowledge to improve own memory, revision techniques, etc.	Understanding own and others behaviour. Ways to improve own psychological wellbeing. Selfactualisation	Awareness of impact of behaviours of others/social context of behaviour. Critical reflection on conformity, obedience and minority influence	Self-awareness, relationship with parents and own children in future, feelings of security/insecurity	Understanding of mental health issues, causes, and variations in treatment approaches
<b>Connections with careers</b>	Research methods and statistics are useful for many careers, including research psychologist, market research, consumer research, risk assessment, etc. Forensics and police (e.g. EWT, cognitive interview). Marketing and advertising. Human resources and management. Mental health professional – counsellor, clinical psychologist, SEN, social worker. Education – teacher, nursery school, educational psychologist					

<b>Home support</b>	Digital textbook with extra resources and links: <a href="https://illuminate.digital/aqapsych2edy1/">https://illuminate.digital/aqapsych2edy1/</a> Simply Psychology: <a href="https://www.simplypsychology.org/a-level-psychology.html">https://www.simplypsychology.org/a-level-psychology.html</a> Tutor2U study notes and videos: <a href="https://www.tutor2u.net/psychology/reference/study-notes">https://www.tutor2u.net/psychology/reference/study-notes</a> Crash Course Psychology videos: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eal4-A89IYW&amp;list=PL8dPuualjXtOPRkzVLY0jJY-uHOH9KVU6">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eal4-A89IYW&amp;list=PL8dPuualjXtOPRkzVLY0jJY-uHOH9KVU6</a> Crash Course statistics videos: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zouPoc49xbk&amp;list=PL8dPuualjXtNM_Y-bUAhbISAdWRnmBUcr">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zouPoc49xbk&amp;list=PL8dPuualjXtNM_Y-bUAhbISAdWRnmBUcr</a> Resources on Teams, additional textbooks, Psychology Review – In RMGS library
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<b>YEAR 12</b>	<b>Research Methods</b>	<b>Cognition and Development</b>				
<b>YEAR 13</b>			<b>Issues and Debates</b>	<b>Biopsychology</b>	<b>Schizophrenia</b>	<b>Aggression</b>
<b>Key Knowledge</b>	Non-experimental methods Validity Reliability Inferential statistics and probability Features of science Reporting an investigation Designing a study	Theories of cognitive development – Piaget, Vygotsky, Baillargeon Social cognition – Selman’s perspective-taking, theory of mind and autism, mirror neurons	Gender & culture bias Freewill vs determinism Reductionism vs holism Nature vs nurture Idiographic vs nomothetic approaches Ethical implications	Nervous system, endocrine system, neurons Localisation and lateralisation of function Plasticity Investigating the brain Biological rhythms	Diagnosis and classification Biological explanations and therapies Psychological explanations and therapies Interactionist approach	Biological explanations – neural and hormonal mechanisms, genetics, ethology and evolution Social-psychological explanations Institutional aggression Media influences
<b>Key subjects Skills</b>	Design and evaluation of experimental and non-experimental methods Skills of statistical analysis Evaluation of science vs pseudoscience	Description and evaluation of theory and research Application of knowledge to new scenarios	Evaluation of research in relation to biases and ethical implications Philosophical debate and logical argument	Description and evaluation of theory and research Application of knowledge to new scenarios	Description and evaluation of theory and research Application of knowledge to new scenarios	Description and evaluation of theory and research Application of knowledge to new scenarios

<b>Personal development:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RSE</li> <li>• Online safety</li> <li>• Enrichment</li> </ul>	Ethical issues and importance of respect for personal dignity. Value of scientific method	Understanding of biological influences on behaviour of self and others, influence of nature and nurture	Appreciation of mental health issues, and critical understanding of issues in diagnosis and treatment.	Understanding of aggressive behaviour, its causes and ways of treating violent offenders. Social issues of media and violence.	Understanding of how children develop cognitively and socially, may apply to own family	RMET core value – philosophical debate Consideration of nature of self
<b>Connections with careers</b>	Research methods and statistics are useful for many careers, including research psychologist, market research, consumer research, risk assessment, etc. Forensics and police (e.g. EWT, cognitive interview). Marketing and advertising. Human resources and management. Mental health professional – counsellor, clinical psychologist, SEN, social worker. Education – teacher, nursery school, educational psychologist					
<b>Home support</b>	Digital textbook with extra resources and links: <a href="https://illuminate.digital/aqapsych2edy1/">https://illuminate.digital/aqapsych2edy1/</a> Simply Psychology: <a href="https://www.simplypsychology.org/a-level-psychology.html">https://www.simplypsychology.org/a-level-psychology.html</a> Tutor2U study notes and videos: <a href="https://www.tutor2u.net/psychology/reference/study-notes">https://www.tutor2u.net/psychology/reference/study-notes</a> Crash Course Psychology videos: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eal4-A89IWY&amp;list=PL8dPuuaLjXtOPRKzVLY0jY-uHOH9KVU6">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eal4-A89IWY&amp;list=PL8dPuuaLjXtOPRKzVLY0jY-uHOH9KVU6</a> Crash Course statistics videos: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zouPoc49xbk&amp;list=PL8dPuuaLjXtNM_Y-bUAhbISAdWRnmBUcr">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zouPoc49xbk&amp;list=PL8dPuuaLjXtNM_Y-bUAhbISAdWRnmBUcr</a> Resources on Teams, additional textbooks, Psychology Review (in RMGS library)					