

Content & Skills overview

Psychology

Year 12	Year 13	School Leavers at 18
<p>Psychology is an A level option at this level.</p> <p>This is taught as a linear A Level.</p> <p>Psychology provides students with an opportunity to study an alternative Science subject.</p> <p>This qualification offers an engaging and effective introduction to Psychology. Students will learn the fundamentals of the subject and develop skills valued by Higher Education (HE) and employers, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research.</p> <p>The topics studied are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Social influence 2 Memory 3 Attachment 4 Approaches in Psychology 5 Psychopathology 6 Research methods <p>These are compulsory units</p> <p>Psychology is assessed at the end of Year 12 with a Predictor Exam that allows students to gain experience of sitting the A Level exam. This is also used as a revision opportunity and to give the opportunity to students to decide if they wish to pursue this subject to Year 13.</p> <p>Assessment objectives (AOs) are set by Ofqual and are the same across year 12 and 13 A-level Psychology specifications and all exam boards. The exams will measure how students have achieved the following assessment objectives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, processes, techniques and procedures. • AO2: Apply knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, processes, techniques and procedures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in a theoretical context • in a practical context • when handling qualitative data • when handling quantitative data. 	<p>The Year 13 A Level content draws upon the topics covered in Year 12 and builds upon the knowledge already gained along with the introduction of new topics to study.</p> <p>Topics studied are:</p> <p>Compulsory units</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Social influence 2 Memory 3 Attachment 4 Approaches in Psychology 5 Psychopathology 6 Research methods 7. Issues and debates 8. Biopsychology <p>Options are then chosen where the knowledge from above is linked to these.</p> <p>The optional units are:</p> <p>Relationships Schizophrenia Aggression</p> <p>These were chosen because:</p> <p>Schizophrenia is a shorter topic than the others, although difficult with many biological terms and theories. Students study this after biopsychology and usually feel more comfortable addressing the science aspect.</p> <p>Aggression is a choice because it is enjoyed by students. They also find it easier than other topics due to the less biological aspects and greater social aspects. This means across topics they are</p>	<p>Most students go on to study Degrees in Psychology and Degrees in Health profession. Degrees, which combine psychology with other subjects such as criminology and sociology.</p> <p>A few students go on to apprenticeships.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AO3: Analyse, interpret and evaluate scientific information, ideas and evidence, including in relation to issues, to: • make judgements and reach conclusions • develop and refine practical design and procedures. <p>Knowledge and understanding of research methods, practical research skills and mathematical skills are required for this subject. This clearly maps across from Math studied at GCSE level.</p> <p>Science is also mapped across as the Biopsychology approach links to Biology with looking at the nervous system, glands, hormones, and ways in which the brain is studied.</p> <p>English is also linked due to the research skills, comprehension and writing skills that are required within this discipline.</p>	<p>strengthening many areas of specialism. This does have cross curricula links with Science and Sociology.</p> <p>Relationships is a newer topic for us at Highams Park. We used to teach Gender but due to students relating well to the Relationships topic and many direct references in the real world to make and apply to the content, the change was introduced. So far it has been successful.</p> <p>Assessment objects carry on from year 1 with them being set by Ofqual and are the same across both Year 12 and 13 A level.</p> <p>A2 Assessment:</p> <p>Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology written exam: 2 hours 96 marks in total 33.3% of A-level</p> <p>Paper 2: Psychology in Context written exam: 2 hours 96 marks in total 33.3% of A-level</p> <p>Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology written exam: 2 hours 96 marks in total 33.3% of A-level</p>	
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