

Year 13 Long Term Scheme of Learning 2025-26

Subject: Psychology

Date	Exams/Assess	Teacher A (5 hours per fortnight)	Teacher B (4 hours per fortnight)
1/9/25		Roughly 18 lessons RESEARCH METHODS • RECAP AS CONTENT • Statistics • Probability and significance • Type I and Type II errors. • Ways of assessing and improving reliability • Types of validity, assessment of validity and improving validity. • Paradigms and paradigm shifts. • The implications of psychological research for the economy. • Content analysis and coding. Thematic analysis. • 12 mark plan style questions CORE TASK: Paper 2 PAST PAPER QUESTIONS ISSUES AND DEBATES • Gender in Psychology – universality and bias. Gender bias including androcentrism and alpha and beta bias • Culture in Psychology – universality and bias. Cultural bias, including ethnocentrism and cultural relativism. • Free will and determinism: hard determinism and soft determinism; biological, environmental and psychic determinism. The scientific emphasis on causal explanations. • The nature-nurture debate: the relative importance of heredity and environment in determining behaviour; the interactionist approach.	Roughly 14 lessons RELATIONSHIPS • The evolutionary explanations for partner preferences, including the relationship between sexual selection and human reproductive behaviour. • Factors affecting attraction in romantic relationships: self-disclosure; physical attractiveness, including the matching hypothesis; filter theory, including social demography, similarity in attitudes and complementarity. • Theories of romantic relationships: social exchange theory, equity theory and Rusbult’s investment model of commitment, satisfaction, comparison with alternatives and investment. Duck’s phase model of relationship breakdown: intra-psychic, dyadic, social and grave dressing phases. • Virtual relationships in social media: self-disclosure in virtual relationships; effects of absence of gating on the nature of virtual relationships. • Parasocial relationships: levels of parasocial relationships, the absorption addiction model and the attachment theory explanation CORE TASK: PAST PAPER QUESTIONS
8/9/25			
15/9/25			
22/9/25			
29/9/25			
6/10/25			
13/10/25			
20/10/25			
October Half Term			
3/11/25		PPE 1	
10/11/25		Issues and debates, Relationships, Research Methods	
17/11/25		Roughly 12 lessons ISSUES AND DEBATES • Holism and reductionism: levels of explanation in Psychology. Biological reductionism and environmental (stimulus-response) reductionism. • Idiographic and nomothetic approaches to psychological investigation. • Ethical implications of research studies and theory, including reference to social sensitivity. CORE TASK: PAST PAPER QUESTIONS	Roughly 10 lessons BIOPSYCHOLOGY • RECAP AS CONTENT • Localisation of function in the brain and hemispheric lateralisation: motor, somatosensory, visual, auditory and language centres; Broca’s and Wernicke’s areas, split brain research. Plasticity and functional recovery of the brain after trauma. • Ways of studying the brain: scanning techniques, including functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI); electroencephalogram (EEGs) and event-related potentials (ERPs); post-mortem examinations. • Biological rhythms: circadian, infradian and ultradian and the difference between these rhythms. • The effect of endogenous pacemakers and exogenous zeitgebers on the sleep/wake cycle. CORE TASK: Paper 2 PAST PAPER QUESTIONS
24/11/25			
1/12/25			
8/12/25			
15/12/25			
Christmas Holidays			
5/1/26		Roughly 10 lessons ADDICTION • Describing addiction: physical and psychological dependence, tolerance and withdrawal syndrome. • Risk factors in the development of addiction, including genetic vulnerability, stress, personality, family influences and peers. • Explanations for nicotine addiction: brain neurochemistry, including the role of dopamine, and learning theory as applied to smoking behaviour, including reference to cue reactivity.	Roughly 8 lessons SCHIZOPHRENIA • Classification of schizophrenia. Positive symptoms of schizophrenia, including hallucinations and delusions. Negative symptoms of schizophrenia, including speech poverty and avolition. Reliability and validity in diagnosis and classification of schizophrenia, including reference to co-morbidity, culture and gender bias and symptom overlap. • Biological explanations for schizophrenia: genetics and neural correlates, including the dopamine hypothesis. • Psychological explanations for schizophrenia: family dysfunction and cognitive explanations, including dysfunctional thought processing.
12/1/26			
19/1/26			
26/1/26			

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2/2/26		PPE 2	
9/2/26		Issues and Debates, Relationships, Biopsychology, Research Methods	
February Half Term			
23/2/26		Roughly 12 lessons ADDICTION (continued) - Explanations for gambling addiction: learning theory as applied to gambling, including reference to partial and variable reinforcement; cognitive theory as applied to gambling, including reference to cognitive bias. - Reducing addiction: drug therapy; behavioural interventions, including aversion therapy and covert sensitisation; cognitive behaviour therapy - The application of the following theories of behaviour change to addictive behaviour; the theory of planned behaviour and Prochaska’s six-stage model of behaviour change. CORE TASK: PAST PAPER QUESTIONS	Roughly 10 lessons SCHIZOPHRENIA (continued) - Drug therapy: typical and atypical antipsychotics. - Cognitive behaviour therapy and family therapy as used in the treatment of schizophrenia. Token economies as used in the management of schizophrenia. - The importance of an interactionist approach in explaining and treating schizophrenia; the diathesis-stress model. CORE TASK: PAST PAPER QUESTIONS
2/3/26			
9/3/26			
16/3/26			
23/3/26			
30/3/26			
Easter break			
20/4/26		REVISION	REVISION
27/4/26			
4/5/26			
Paper 1 exam Friday 15 th May			
Paper 2 exam Wednesday 20 th May			
May Half Term			
Paper 3 exam Friday 5 th June			
11/5/26		Study Leave	Study Leave
18/5/26			
1/6/26			
8/6/26			
15/6/26			
22/6/26			
29/6/26			
6/7/26			
13/7/26			