

National curriculum or specification coverage
AQA A Level Psychology

- Paper 2: Psychology in Context - Approaches in Psychology
- Paper 2: Psychology in Context – Research Methods
- Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology – Clinical Psychology and Mental Health

Date	Exams/ Assessments	Learning Intentions	Core Task/Assessments
31/08/26		APPROACHES IN PSYCHOLOGY Learning approaches ☐ The behaviourist approach, including classical conditioning and Pavlov’s research, operant conditioning, types of reinforcement and Skinner’s research ☐ Social learning theory including imitation, identification, vicarious reinforcement, the role of mediational processes and Bandura’s research. The cognitive approach ☐ The study of internal mental processes, the role of schema, the use of models to explain and make inferences about mental processes. The biological approach ☐ The genetic basis of behaviour: genotype, phenotype and evolution. ☐ Influence of biological structures and neurochemistry on behaviour. ☐ Cognitive neuroscience. The psychodynamic approach ☐ The role of the unconscious, the structure of personality, that is Id, Ego and Superego, defence mechanisms including repression, denial and displacement, psychosexual stages. Humanistic Psychology ☐ Free will, self-actualisation and Maslow’s hierarchy of needs, congruence, the role of conditions of worth.	Past paper questions
07/09/26			
14/09/26			
21/09/26			
28/09/26			
05/10/26			
12/10/26			
19/10/26			
26/10/26	HALF TERM		
02/11/26		Comparison of approaches	
09/11/26			
16/11/26	Y12	ASSESSMENT FORTNIGHT	

23/11/26	Y12		ASSESSMENT FORTNIGHT: Past paper questions
30/11/26		RESEARCH METHODS	
07/12/26		Scientific processes	
14/12/26		☐ Features of science ☐ Aims, Hypotheses, Variables ☐ Reliability and validity ☐ Demand characteristics, investigator effects, control ☐ Pilot studies and the aims of piloting.	
21/12/26	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY		
28/12/26			
04/01/27		RESEARCH METHODS	
11/01/27		Scientific processes and research methods	
18/01/27		☐ Experimental method; Types of experiment and experimental designs ☐ Types of observation and observational design ☐ Self-report techniques; Questionnaires and interviews ☐ Correlations and analysis and interpretation of correlation, including correlation coefficients. ☐ Case studies	
25/01/27		Scientific processes	
01/02/27		☐ Ethics, including the role of the British Psychological Society's code of ethics; ethical issues in the design and conduct of psychological studies; dealing with ethical issues in research. ☐ Sampling: the difference between population and sample; sampling methods including: random, systematic, stratified, opportunity and volunteer; implications of sampling methods, including bias and generalisation. ☐ Return the validity, reliability and control	
08/02/27		Data handling and analysis	
		☐ Quantitative and qualitative data ☐ Primary and secondary data, including meta-analysis. ☐ Levels of measurement: nominal, ordinal and interval. ☐ Descriptive statistics	
		Inferential testing	
		☐ Probability and significance: use of statistical tables and critical values in interpretation of significance; Type I and Type II errors. ☐ The sign test. When to use the sign test; calculation of the sign test. ☐ Factors affecting the choice of statistical test	
15/02/27	HALF TERM		
22/02/27		Data handling and analysis	
01/03/27		☐ Presentation and display of quantitative data ☐ Distributions	
08/03/27			

Year 12 Long Term Scheme of Learning 2026-2027

Subject: Psychology

15/03/27		☐ Coding in content analysis. Scientific processes	Past paper questions
22/03/27		☐ Reporting psychological investigations. Sections of a scientific report ☐ The role of peer review in the scientific process. ☐ The implications of psychological research for the economy.	
29/03/27			
05/04/27		SPRING BREAK	
12/04/27		Planning a psychological study – 12 mark questions in research methods	ASSESSMENT WEEK – Past paper questions
19/04/27	Y12	ASSESSMENT WEEK	
26/04/27		CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY AND MENTAL HEALTH	
03/05/27		Definitions in the field of mental health	
10/05/27		☐ deviation from ideal mental health, deviation from social/cultural norms, failure to function adequately and statistical infrequency.	
17/05/27		Phobias	
24/05/27		☐ The behavioural, emotional and cognitive characteristics of phobias ☐ The behavioural approach to explaining and treating phobias: the two-process model, including classical and operant conditioning; systematic desensitisation, including relaxation and use of hierarchy; flooding.	
31/05/27		HALF TERM	
07/06/27		Depression	Past paper questions
14/06/27		☐ The behavioural, emotional and cognitive characteristics of depression ☐ The cognitive approach to explaining and treating depression: Beck's negative triad and Ellis's ABC model; cognitive behaviour therapy (CBT), including challenging irrational thoughts.	
21/06/27			
28/06/27		OCD	
05/07/27		☐ The behavioural, emotional and cognitive characteristics of OCD ☐ The biological approach to explaining and treating OCD: genetic and neural explanations; drug therapy.	
12/07/27			