

**Subject:** Psychology

Year 12	Year 13
<p><b>Approaches in Psychology:</b> Examining and evaluating the different approaches psychologists adopt towards behaviours; biological, psychodynamic, behaviourist, humanistic and cognitive. Outlining the origins and development of psychology as a science.</p>	<p><b>Relationships:</b> Examining evolutionary explanations for partner preference and the preferred mating strategies of both males and females. Understanding the factors that affect the initiation, maintenance and breakdown of relationships. With the introduction of the internet and then, more recently, the social media sensation, it has also become important to learn about virtual relationships and para-social relationships.</p>
<p><b>Research Methods:</b> Identifying what makes Psychology scientific and answering key questions: Who conducts psychological research? Why do we conduct psychological research? What have we learnt from psychological research? How do we complete psychological research? Is it always ethical?</p>	<p><b>Issues and debates:</b> The issues and debates in psychology considers some of the important arguments in relation to conducting research and explaining behaviour. The key issues and debates include gender and culture in psychology; free will and determinism; the nature-nurture debates; idiographic and nomothetic approaches; ethical issues and social sensitivity.</p>
<p><b>Attachment:</b> From birth, babies and young children are heavily reliant on their adult caregivers, and the different attachments they form in these early years may be critical for later childhood and adulthood. Exploring how different childhood experiences with caregivers can influence their personal development and evaluating theories and studies surrounding the concept and importance of attachment.</p>	<p><b>Aggression:</b> Discussing the difference between reactive and proactive aggression and the different influences of aggression, including neural, hormonal, genetic, ethological, social, institutional, evolutionary and media. Students will develop an understanding why aggression occurs and how we might reduce it.</p>
<p><b>Biopsychology:</b> Delving into how the brain functions and its impact on human behaviour. Exploring the concept of brain localisation and whether the brain has elements of plasticity to aid recovery following trauma. Discussing and analysing how the brain, neurotransmitters and other aspects of our biology influence our behaviours, thoughts and feelings.</p>	
<p><b>Memory:</b> Memory has been defined as "the retention of learning or experience" (Gross 1987). Students will explore the structures and processes involved in the storage and subsequent retrieval of information. Analysing the different theories about how we process and store vast amounts of information and evaluate different studies investigating how memory works.</p>	<p><b>Research Methods:</b> Students further develop their understanding of the science behind psychology. Examining how results are collected and how they are analysed. Understanding the importance of reliability and validity interpreting probability and significance of their data. Carrying out different types of statistical tests and identifying when it is appropriate to use them.</p>
<p><b>Social Influence:</b> Exploring different elements of social influence such as obedience, social conformity and minority influence. Comparing influencing and resisting social change.</p>	
<p><b>Psychopathology:</b> Comparing and analysing the biological explanations, cognitive explanations and behavioral explanations for phobias, depression and obsessive-compulsive disorder. Describing the symptoms and psychological theories for the disorders as well as evaluating the different treatments that have been created by psychologists and are available to individuals.</p>	<p><b>Schizophrenia:</b> Explaining the symptoms and diagnosis of schizophrenia as well as the issues surrounding the diagnosis of the illness. Evaluating the biological, psychological and interactionist explanations for schizophrenia as well as the different therapies available.</p>