

AQA A Level Psychology Curriculum map

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Year 12	<p>Approaches in Psychology Paper 2 Core approaches Origins of Psychology Learning approaches: behaviourist & social learning theory Cognitive approach Biological approach and biopsychology foundations Psychodynamic approach Humanistic approach</p> <p>Research Methods (Paper 2) Content: Experimental methods and designs Observational methods & designs Self-report: interviews & questionnaires Correlations; content analysis; case studies Sampling; ethics; pilot studies Data handling: types of data, descriptive statistics Graphs; distributions scientific processes; peer review; reporting investigations</p>	<p>Paper 1 Clinical Psychology and Mental health Definitions of mental health and Characteristics of disorders: behavioural, emotional and cognitive features of phobias, depression and OCD</p> <p>Psychological and biological explanations</p> <p>Phobias (behavioural approach): two-process model (classical + operant conditioning); systematic desensitisation (relaxation, hierarchy); flooding Depression (cognitive approach): Beck's negative triad; Ellis's ABC model; CBT (challenging irrational thoughts) OCD (biological approach): genetic and neural explanations; drug therapy</p>	<p>Paper 1 Social Influence Conformity; Asch variables Explanations for conformity Obedience (Milgram); situational & dispositional factors Resistance to social influence Minority influence</p> <p>Paper 1 Memory Multi-store model: sensory register, short-term memory, long-term memory; coding, capacity, duration Working memory model: central executive, phonological loop, visuo-spatial sketchpad, episodic buffer; coding and capacity Forgetting: proactive interference, retroactive interference, retrieval failure (lack of cues) Eyewitness testimony: leading questions, post-event discussion, anxiety; cognitive interview</p> <p>Research methods</p>	<p>Paper 1 Attachment Animal studies: Lorenz; Harlow Explanations of attachment: learning theory; Bowlby's monotropic theory; critical period; internal working model Ainsworth's Strange Situation: secure, insecure-avoidant, insecure-resistant; cultural variations (van Ijzendoorn) Maternal deprivation: Bowlby's theory; institutionalisation (English and Romanian Adoptees study) Influence of early attachment: effects on childhood and adult relationships; internal working model</p> <p>Research methods</p>	<p>Paper 2 Biopsychology Divisions of the nervous system: central and peripheral (somatic, autonomic) Neurons: sensory, relay, motor; synaptic transmission (neurotransmitters, excitation, inhibition) Endocrine system: glands and hormones Fight-or-flight response: role of adrenaline Studying the brain: fMRI, EEGs, ERPs, post-mortems Localisation & lateralisation: motor, somatosensory, visual, auditory, language centres; Broca's & Wernicke's areas; split-brain research Brain plasticity and functional recovery after trauma</p> <p>Research methods & Inferential Stats</p>	<p>Paper 3 Issues & Debates + Optional Topics Gender & culture: universality vs bias; gender bias (androcentrism, alpha/beta bias); cultural bias (ethnocentrism, cultural relativism) Free will & determinism: hard/soft determinism; biological, environmental, psychic determinism; scientific causal explanations Nature–nurture: heredity vs environment; interactionist approach Holism & reductionism: levels of explanation; biological and environmental reductionism Idiographic vs nomothetic approaches Socially sensitive research</p> <p>Research methods & Inferential Stats</p>
Y12 Assessment	Paper 2 Assessment Section B and C	Paper 1 Assessment Section D	Paper 1 Assessment section A and B	Paper 1 Assessment Section C	Paper 2 Assessment Section A	Paper 2 Assessment Section C Trial exam Paper 1 and Paper 2

Year 13	<p>Paper 3 Schizophrenia Positive symptoms: and Negative symptoms. Issues in diagnosis</p> <p>Biological explanations: genetics; neural correlates; dopamine hypothesis Psychological explanations: family dysfunction; cognitive explanations; dysfunctional thought processing Drug therapy: typical and atypical antipsychotics Psychological treatments: CBTp; family therapy Interactionist approach: diathesis–stress model</p> <p>Research methods & Inferential Stats</p>	<p>Paper 3 Forensic Psychology Offender profiling: typology approach (organised/disorganised) ; data-driven approach (investigative psychology); geographical profiling Biological explanations: genetic and neural factors Psychological explanations: Eysenck’s criminal personality; cognitive explanations; moral reasoning; cognitive distortions (hostile attribution bias, minimalisation); differential association theory Dealing with offending: aims/effects of custodial sentencing; behaviour modification; anger management; restorative justice</p> <p>Research methods & Inferential Stats</p>	<p>Paper 3 Cognition & Development Piaget’s theory: Cognitive development and Stage features</p> <p>Vygotsky’s theory: Learning driven by social interaction.</p> <p>Baillargeon: Infants show early physical understanding</p> <p>Social cognition: Selman’s perspective-taking, Theory of Mind,.</p> <p>Research methods & Inferential Stats</p>	Exam revision and Preparation	Exams	
Y13 Assessment	Paper 3 Section A and SZ	Paper 3 Section A and Forensics	Paper 3 and Section Cognition	Exam Preparation	Exams	