Holmer Green Senior School

Psychology

2025-26

Curriculum Intent

Work Hard, Be Kind, Have Passion

The purpose of our Psychology curriculum is to secure strong academic outcomes. We are committed to ensuring all pupils have high aspirations while providing support and provision to ensure all can succeed. We want students to develop a real passion for learning about human thought and behaviour through the variety of diverse and thought-provoking topics we study. Students will learn about how psychology is used in society and the wider applications and implications of the subject. Students will learn to describe and assess existing theories and research. They will also develop practical research skills to enable them to plan, conduct and collect data. Students will develop mathematical skills to allow them to analyse data and reach conclusions. The curriculum aims for students to be confident in expressing psychological ideas verbally and in academic writing and be prepared to take risks with their learning. To be learners who persevere and are committed to their success in this subject and developing a lifelong interest in psychology, enabling students to pursue the subject at degree level and beyond.

HGSS Curriculum Map

Year 12 Psychology



Exam Board: AQA			**Careers: forensic psychology, educational psychology, clinical psychology**		**Co-Curricular: RGS Psychology trip**			
	Autumn 1	**Autumn 2**	**Spring 1**	**AP1**	**Spring 2**	**Summer 1**	**Summer 2**	**AP2**
Content	Research Methods - Designing, conducting, analysing & interpreting data - Experimental method - Ethical Issues - Sampling Techniques - Observational techniques - Self-report techniques - Correlations	Approaches in Psychology Key assumptions of the following approaches: - Behaviourist - Social learning - Cognitive - Biological - Psychodynamic - Humanistic Memory - Models of memory: The multi-store model of memory - Features of each store: coding, capacity and duration.	Memory - Models of memory: Working memory model - Explanations for forgetting - Factors affecting EWT - The Cognitive Interview Social Influence - Conformity - Explanations for obedience & resistance - Minority influence	RM – (24 marks) Approaches (24 marks)	Attachment - Explanations of attachment - Types of attachment - Maternal deprivation - ERA studies - Internal working model	Clinical Psychology and Mental Health - Characteristics of phobias, depression & OCD. - Behavioural approach –phobias - Cognitive approach – depression - Biological approach – OCD	Biopsychology - Nervous system - Endocrine system - Fight or flight - Localisation of function - Plasticity - Hemispheric Lateralisation - Ways of studying the brain	Paper 1 - Introductory topics in psychology (96 marks) 2 hours AS Level – Research Methods (24 marks) Approaches - (24 marks) 1 hour
Skills:	Critical thinking Teamwork Independent research skills Interpersonal and cross-cultural skills Inquiry skills	Critical thinking Teamwork Independent research skills Interpersonal and cross-cultural skills Inquiry skills	Critical thinking Teamwork Independent research skills Interpersonal and cross-cultural skills Inquiry skills		Critical thinking Teamwork Independent research skills Interpersonal and cross-cultural skills Inquiry skills	Critical thinking Teamwork Independent research skills Interpersonal and cross-cultural skills Inquiry skills	Critical thinking Teamwork Independent research skills Interpersonal and cross-cultural skills Inquiry skills	

HGSS Curriculum Map

Year 13 Psychology



Exam Board: AQA			**Careers: Forensics:** Police / Law **Gender:** Working with children / social policy / parenting education **SZ:** Mental health nursing / Psychologist / family therapist / Cognitive behavioural therapist		**Co-Curricular:**			
	Autumn 1	**Autumn 2**	**Spring 1**	**AP1**	**Spring 2**	**Summer 1**	**Summer 2**	**AP2**
Content	• Yr 13 RM Inferential testing Statistical testing Probability and significance Factors affecting the choice of statistical test Reliability and Validity Features of Science Case Studies and Content Analysis	• Issues & Debates Gender Bias Cultural Bias Free will & Determinism Nature vs Nurture debate Holism & Reductionism Idiographic & Nomothetic Ethical Implications of research	• Forensic Psychology Top down and bottom up approaches Biological explainations Psychological explainations Dealing with offender behaviour	Paper 2 – Psychology in Context (96 marks) 2 hours	• Schizophrenia Symptoms & Diagnosis Biological explainations & therapies Psychological explanations & therapies Management and treatments of SZ • Cognition and Development Piaget's theory of cognitive development Education and learning	• Cognition and development Development of schemas Baillargeon's explanation of infant abilities Vygotsky's theory The role of private speech Theory of mind Autism as a theory of mind deficit • Revision – all topics • Exam Skill	N/A	N/A
Skills:	Critical thinking Teamwork Independent research skills Interpersonal and cross-cultural skills Inquiry skills Analytical skills	Critical thinking Teamwork Independent research skills Interpersonal and cross-cultural skills Inquiry skills Analytical skills	Critical thinking Teamwork Independent research skills Interpersonal and cross-cultural skills Inquiry skills Analytical skills		Critical thinking Teamwork Independent research skills Interpersonal and cross-cultural skills Inquiry skills Analytical skills	Critical thinking Teamwork Independent research skills Interpersonal and cross-cultural skills Inquiry skills Analytical skills	N/A	