



Psychology A-level – Year 12

Curriculum Road Map



TERM 1

APPROACHES (Paper 2)

- ψ This module explores the key perspectives on, and explanations for, human behaviour. We study the core beliefs of each approach, as well as the origins of psychology as a scientific subject.
- ψ The topics are the bases of academic psychology, and form foundation knowledge for other topics throughout the A-level course.

ISSUES & DEBATES (Paper 3)

- ψ This module explores some of the important arguments in relation to explaining human behaviour, and issues when conducting psychological research.
- ψ These issues and debates can be applied to other topics throughout the A-level course, and can be utilised as evaluation for many of psychological theories studied.

TERM 2

MEMORY (Paper 1)

- ψ This module explores the human ability to encode, store and retrieve information. We will study various cognitive models of memory, including types of memory, explanations for forgetting, and eyewitness testimony.
- ψ The topics will use and build upon knowledge from earlier A-level psychology topics. They also directly connect to and apply Research Methods knowledge.

RELATIONSHIPS (Paper 3)

- ψ This module explores the psychology of romantic relationships. We will study concepts such as factors that affect attraction, theories of what makes a successful relationship, and virtual relationships in social media.
- ψ The topics directly connect to and apply Research Methods knowledge. This module will also complete the study of half of Paper 3.

TERM 3

PSYCHOPATHOLOGY (Paper 1)

- ψ Psychopathology is the study of mental conditions. This module first explores what is meant by “abnormality”. We will then study explanations and treatments for phobias, depression and OCD.
- ψ This module will use and build upon knowledge from earlier A-level psychology topics. This will also complete the study of half of Paper 1.

TERM 1 – 3

RESEARCH METHODS

(Paper 2, though can also appear on Papers 1 and 3)

- ψ Psychology is a science, therefore scientific research is conducted to test psychological theories.
- ψ This module teaches students the full process of conducting psychological research – from planning research studies to analysing the results.
- ψ The syllabus covers different types of studies and experiments used in psychology, how these are conducted and reported, and how to overcome any issues.
- ψ The Research Methods module is worth double the marks of the other modules, and it can also appear within the other psychology exam modules.
- ψ At least 25-30% of the overall A-level marks will be from Research Methods alone.
- ψ Also, at least 10% of the overall A-level marks will contain mathematical skills.
- ψ It is taught throughout Year 12, from autumn to summer term.
- ψ It will build upon and develop previous GCSE Maths and Science knowledge.

By the end of Year 12, we've studied:

- ψ Half of the total A-level modules (6 out of 11)
- ψ All of Research Methods (the double-weighted module)
- ψ Half of the modules on Paper 1 (2 out of 4)
- ψ Half of the modules on Paper 3 (2 out of 4)



Psychology A-level – Year 13

Curriculum Road Map



TERM 1

ATTACHMENT (Paper 1)

- ψ This module explores the psychological connection between infants and their caregivers, and the effect this has on child and adult behaviour. We will study topics such as the formation of attachment, types of attachment, and cultural differences in attachment.
- ψ The topics directly connect to and apply Research Methods knowledge.

BIOPSYCHOLOGY (Paper 2)

- ψ This module explores the physiology and biological influence on behaviour. We will study topics such as neuroscience, ways of studying the brain, and biological rhythms.
- ψ These topics use and build upon knowledge from both GCSE Science and earlier A-level psychology topics. It will also complete the study of Paper 2.

TERM 1 – 2

FORENSICS (Paper 3)

- ψ This module explores the interaction between law, crime and psychology. Forensic psychology applies psychological theories to different stages of the criminal justice system. We will study topics such as understanding the biological and psychology causes of crime, and ways of dealing with offenders.
- ψ Due to the number of topics within Forensics, it will be taught across two terms. The module uses and builds upon knowledge from earlier A-level psychology topics. It also connects to and applies Research Methods knowledge.

TERM 2

EATING BEHAVIOUR (Paper 3)

- ψ This module explores the psychology and biology explanations for eating behaviour (such as reasons for different food preferences) and of eating disorders (such as anorexia nervosa and obesity).
- ψ This module will use and build upon knowledge from earlier A-level psychology topics. It will also complete the study of Paper 3.

SOCIAL INFLUENCE (Paper 1)

- ψ This module explores how an individual's behaviour is affected by the presence or actions of other people. We will study topics such as conformity, obedience to authority, and resistance to social influence.
- ψ This module connects to and applies Research Methods topics and knowledge. It will also complete the study of Paper 1.

TERM 3

REVISION AND EXTERNAL A-LEVEL EXAMS

- ψ This term will focus on revising the content from across the A-level course ahead of the external exams.
- ψ The Psychology course is 100% examination, with all 11 modules being externally assessed across 3 exam papers in the Year 13 summer term.
- ψ Each exam paper is 2 hours in length, and worth 96 marks.
- ψ Each module is 30 minutes in length, and worth 24 marks. (Except Research Methods – 1 hour in length and worth 48 marks).