

A Level Psychology – Year 13 Curriculum Map

Term	Unit	Big/Small Questions	Unit	Assessment
Autumn 1	Biopsychology <i>The nervous system and endocrine system</i> <i>Neurons and synaptic transmission</i> <i>Fight or flight response</i> <i>Localisation</i> <i>Lateralisation</i> <i>Plasticity</i> <i>Studying the brain</i> <i>Biological rhythms</i>	How do the nervous and endocrine systems function? What is the structure and function of neurons? What processes are involved in synaptic transmission? What processes are involved in the fight or flight response? What does psychological research tell us about the brain? Where are motor, sensory, visual and auditory centres located? What are the key language centres in the brain? What has split-brain research found about each hemisphere? What processes are involved in plasticity and functional recovery? How effective are scanning techniques in studying the brain? What does psychological research tell us about biological rhythms? How to exogenous zeitgebers and endogenous pacemakers influence the circadian, ultradian and infradian rhythms?	Research Methods <i>Sign test</i> <i>Statistical tests</i> <i>Probability and significance</i>	Biopsychology End of unit assessment (30 marks) including short-answer questions and an essay Research Methods 30-mark assessment on statistical testing
		What are the methods of offender profiling? How are offenders defined according to the top-down approach? How are offenders defined according to the bottom-up approach? What are the biological explanations of offending? How does Atavistic Form explain criminal behaviour? What role do genetics and brain structures play in criminal behaviour? What are the psychological explanations of offending? How does Eysenck's personality theory explain crime? How does differential association theory explain crime? How does the psychodynamic approach explain crime? How can offending behaviour be dealt with? What are the aims of custodial sentencing? What processes are involved in behaviour modification, anger management and restorative justice?		Forensics End of unit assessment (24 marks) consisting of a full section of section D on paper 3 Research Methods 12-mark design a study question
Autumn 2	Forensics <i>Offender profiling</i> <i>Biological explanations of offending</i> <i>Psychological explanations of offending</i> <i>Dealing with offending behaviour</i>		Research Methods <i>Improving reliability and validity</i> <i>Psychological reports</i> <i>Referencing</i> <i>Designing a study</i>	

Spring 1	Relationships <i>Evolutionary explanations</i> <i>Factors affecting attraction</i> <i>Theories of romantic relationships</i> <i>Virtual relationships</i> <i>Parasocial relationships</i>	Which factors affect attraction? What role does evolution play in attraction? How does self-disclosure, physical attractiveness and filter theory affect attraction in romantic relationships? What are the theories of romantic relationships? How does social exchange theory explain relationships? How does equity theory explain relationships? How does Rusbult's investment model explain relationships? How do relationships break down according to Duck? What does research suggest about other types of relationships? What processes are involved in virtual relationships? What are the explanations of parasocial relationships?	Issues & Debates <i>Gender bias</i> <i>Culture bias</i> <i>Free will – Determinism</i> <i>Nature – Nurture</i>	Relationships End of unit assessment (24 marks) consisting of a full section of section B on paper 3 Y13 Mock Exams <i>Full Paper 1 & Paper 2</i>
Spring 2	Schizophrenia <i>Diagnosis and classification</i> <i>Biological and psychological explanations</i> <i>Biological and psychological treatments</i> <i>Management of schizophrenia</i> <i>Interactionist approach</i>	What is schizophrenia? How is schizophrenia classified and diagnosed? What are the issues with the classification and diagnosis? What are the different explanations of schizophrenia? What roles do genetics and neural structures play? What role does family dysfunction play? What are the different treatments of schizophrenia? How effective are antipsychotics? How effective is cognitive behavioural therapy? How effective is family therapy? How effective are token economies in managing schizophrenia? What is the interactionist approach? How does the interactionist approach explain and treat schizophrenia? How effective is this approach?	Issues & Debates <i>Holism – Reductionism</i> <i>Idiographic – Nomothetic</i> <i>Ethical Implications</i>	Schizophrenia End of unit assessment (24 marks) consisting of a full section of section C on paper 3 Issues & Debates End of unit assessment (24 marks) consisting of a full section of section A on paper 3
Summer 1	Revision			