



GCSE PSYCHOLOGY

Miss Betts and Mrs Baxter-Smith

WHAT IS PSYCHOLOGY?

- The science of mind and behaviour
- Attempts to explain why we think, feel and behave in the way we do
- No right answer – multiple explanations or theories
- GCSE and A Level only

STUDENTS WILL NEED:

- A keen curiosity in human behaviour
- An interest and ability in applying biological concepts to study human behaviour
- An interest and ability in applying mathematical concepts to study human behaviour

STUDENTS WILL NOT:

- Need any existing knowledge of psychology
- Learn how to read minds or study Criminal Psychology
- Need to take the GCSE to study A Level Psychology



STUDENTS WILL GAIN:

- An understanding of human behaviour
- The ability to reflect on your own life and the lives of others



STUDENTS WILL DEVELOP:

- Written communication skills
- The ability to apply psychological concepts to explain human behaviours
- The ability to analyse and evaluate psychological theory and research
- Their biological and mathematical understanding



STUDENTS WILL STUDY:

- 7 different topics
- Research Methods and Statistics
- Issues and Debates

TOPIC 1- SOCIAL INFLUENCE:

- How do others affect you? How do you affect others?
- Obedience
- Conformity
- Bystander behaviour
- Crowd behaviour

TOPIC 2 – MEMORY:

- How does your memory work?
- Information processing
- Processes in memory
- Types of memory
- Theories of memory

TOPIC 3 – DEVELOPMENT:

- How did you develop?
- Early brain development
- Theories of child development
- Development of intelligence and learning
- Types of mindset
- Links to education and teaching

TOPIC 4 – THE SELF:

- What makes you who you are?
- Concepts of the self
- Types of self
- Identity and the development of identity
- Explanations of self
- Influences of the self and self-esteem
- Personality

TOPIC 5 – SLEEP AND DREAMING:

- Why do you need to sleep and dream?
- Features, functions and benefits of sleep
- Internal and external influences on sleep
- Symptoms and explanations of sleep disorders
- Theories of dreaming

TOPIC 6 – THE BRAIN & NEUROPSYCHOLOGY:

- How does your brain affect you?
- Structure and function of the brain
- Lateralisation of function in the hemispheres
- Role of the central nervous system – how neurons and synapses interact
- Impact of neurological damage

TOPIC 7 - PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS:

- Effects of mental health problems
- Symptoms, features and possible explanations of unipolar depression
- Symptoms, features and possible explanations of addiction
- Genetic explanations
- Cognitive explanations
- Learning theory explanations
- Cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT)
- Biochemical treatments (drugs)

RESEARCH METHODS AND STATISTICS:

- How psychological research is carried out
- Embedded throughout previous 7 topics

Variables & hypotheses

Sampling techniques

Experimental design

Reliability and validity

Observations

Qualitative & quantitative data

Ethical issues

Experiments

Case study

Questionnaires

Interviews

Correlation

RESEARCH METHODS AND STATISTICS:

- How psychological research is analysed, represented and interpreted
- Embedded throughout previous 7 topics

Percentages

Fractions

Ratios

Range

Averages

Standard form

Decimal form

Significant figures

Distributions

Bar charts

Scattergraphs

Raw data tables



ISSUES AND DEBATES:

- Themes that run throughout psychology
- Often more philosophical in nature

- The development of morality
- Reductionism and holism
- Nature-nurture
- Development of psychology over time
- Social and cultural issues

STUDENTS WILL BE EXAMINED VIA:

- 2 separate written examinations
- Paper 1: 1hr 45mins
- Paper 2: 1hr 20mins
- Combination of SAQ (1-4m) and ERQ (9 and 12m)
- Sections of each of the 7 topics, plus methods & statistics
- Dedicated methods & statistics section (SAQ and ERQ)
- Dedicated issues and debates section (ERQ)

YOU / STUDENTS CAN FIND OUT MORE:

- kjb@thomasadams.net
- Handout – available tonight (inc current Yr11 IAG)
- Assembly, 8th March
- Drop-in Q&A in the Seminar Room at lunchtime tomorrow and Wed 8th March
- Narrated PPT on Yr9 Teams page
- Speaking to current (Yr10 and) Yr11 students
- Speaking to Mrs Baxter-Smith (Yr10)

Thank you