SUBJECT CURRICULUM PLAN

HASMONEAN
אל תקרי בניך אלא בוניך

SUBJECT:	Psychology	**YEAR GROUP:**	12
COURSE:	A Level Psychology	**EXAM BOARD:**	AQA
SUBJECT INTENT:	To provide students with a broad and rigorous Psychology curriculum that develops secure knowledge of psychological theories, research and applications. Students develop critical thinking, research and mathematical skills, consider mental health and wider social, cultural and ethical issues, and prepare for further study and careers in Psychology and related fields.		

TERM	TOPIC	CORE LEARNING	KEY CONCEPTS	SEQUENCING	SPECIFICATION LINK
Autumn	Memory, Social Influence and Research Methods	Students are introduced to Psychology as a scientific discipline. They study coding, capacity and duration, the multi-store and working memory models, explanations of forgetting and the effects of leading questions and post-event discussion. In Social Influence, they study conformity, obedience, resistance and minority influence. Research methods include experiments, variables, experimental designs, sampling, ethics, observations, self-report, correlations, types of data and descriptive statistics.	Scientific enquiry; memory stores and processes; conformity and obedience; social support and locus of control; operationalisation; control of variables; sampling; ethics; qualitative and quantitative data; measures of central tendency and dispersion.	The two teaching strands run in parallel. Foundational research methods are introduced from the outset and applied through classic studies in Memory and Social Influence. This establishes the knowledge, vocabulary, quantitative skills and evaluation techniques needed throughout the course.	AQA 7182: 4.1.1 Social Influence 4.1.2 Memory 4.2.3 Research Methods

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Spring	Clinical Psychology & Mental Health, Approaches and Attachment	Students study definitions in the field of mental health and the characteristics, explanations and treatments of phobias, depression and OCD. The main psychological approaches are developed, including psychodynamic, behaviourist, humanistic, cognitive, social learning and biological approaches. Attachment begins with animal studies, explanations, the Strange Situation and cultural variation, learning about maternal deprivation, institutionalisation and the influence of early attachment on later relationships.	Definitions in the field of mental health; conditioning; cognitive explanations and CBT; genetic and neural explanations; unconscious processes; free will; schemas; mediational processes; genotype and phenotype; attachment types; internal working model	The Approaches provide a framework for comparing explanations of behaviour and are then applied in Psychopathology and Attachment. Content is deliberately interleaved across the parallel strands.	AQA 7182: 4.1.3 Attachment 4.1.4 Clinical Psychology & Mental Health 4.2.1 Approaches

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Summer	Biopsychology, Consolidation and Assessment	Biopsychology develops understanding of the nervous and endocrine systems, fight or flight, neurons and synaptic transmission, localisation of function in the brain, split-brain research, plasticity, functional recovery and methods of investigating the brain. Students undertake structured revision, end-of-year assessment and feedback.	Central and peripheral nervous systems; hormones; neurotransmission; excitation and inhibition; localisation and hemispheric specialisation lateralisation; plasticity; functional recovery; fMRI, EEG, ERPs and post-mortem investigation; retrieval and examination technique.	Biological psychology is taught in sequence following the biological approach. Consolidating content from cellular communication to brain organisation and investigation. Revision draws together both teaching strands before the end-of-year assessment, with final content and feedback used to prepare students for Year 13.	AQA 7182: 4.2.2 Biopsychology