



Psychology

Key Stage 5

We cover the following content:

Year 12

Social influence: this topic focuses on why people obey authority and why people conform within social situations. We also study how and why people stand out from the crowd and are able to resist pressures to conform or obey.

Memory: studying models of how the long term and short term memory works. Also studying how police conduct interviews and look at eyewitness testimony so that they can get reliable evidence.

Attachment: studying how children get attached to those who care for them. How these attachments are studied and problems in attachment in children who have had no chance to form attachments; for example, children brought up in Romanian orphanages.

Biopsychology: the nervous system and hormones in determining behaviour, the fight or flight response including the role of adrenaline, the function in the brain and recovery of the brain after trauma, ways of studying the brain and biological rhythms and sleep.

Psychopathology: investigating the causes and treatments for phobias, OCD and depression.

Year 13

Forensic psychology: Offender-profiling, explanations of offending behaviour, dealing with offending behaviour: the aims of custodial sentencing and the psychological effects of custodial sentencing. Anger management and restorative justice programmes.

Schizophrenia: classification of schizophrenia. Positive and negative symptoms of schizophrenia; explanations for schizophrenia; drug therapy, cognitive behaviour therapy and family therapy.

Relationships: The evolutionary explanations for partner preferences. Factors affecting attraction in romantic relationships. Relationship breakdown. Virtual relationships in social media. Parasocial relationships e.g one-sided relationships with for example a celebrity)

In psychology, we use two main approaches to help or students retain the knowledge they need in their long-term memory:

The first is spaced repetition. As psychology students, we know the capacity of short-term memory and how information is processed into long-term memory. We ensure that we plan for revision information regularly and that students check their revision notes regularly. The second approach we use is Interleaving. When preparing for examinations, we support students within our lesson planning to keep mix, or interleave multiple subjects or topics while they study in order to improve their learning.