

Holmer Green Senior School

Psychology

2025-26



Curriculum Intent

Work Hard, Be Kind, Have Passion

The purpose of our Psychology curriculum is to secure strong academic outcomes. We are committed to ensuring all pupils have high aspirations while providing support and provision to ensure all can succeed. We want students to develop a real passion for learning about human thought and behaviour through the variety of diverse and thought-provoking topics we study. Students will learn about how psychology is used in society and the wider applications and implications of the subject. Students will learn to describe and assess existing theories and research. They will also develop practical research skills to enable them to plan, conduct and collect data. Students will develop mathematical skills to allow them to analyse data and reach conclusions. The curriculum aims for students to be confident in expressing psychological ideas verbally and in academic writing and be prepared to take risks with their learning. To be learners who persevere and are committed to their success in this subject and developing a lifelong interest in psychology, enabling students to pursue the subject at degree level and beyond.

HGSS Curriculum Map

Year 12 Psychology



Exam Board: AQA		Careers: forensic psychology, educational psychology, clinical psychology			Co-Curricular: RGS Psychology trip			
	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	AP1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2	AP2
Content	Research Methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designing, conducting, analysing & interpreting data - Experimental method - Ethical Issues - Sampling Techniques - Observational techniques - Self-report techniques - Correlations 	Approaches in Psychology <p>Key assumptions of the following approaches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Behaviourist - Social learning - Cognitive - Biological - Psychodynamic - Humanistic Memory <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Models of memory: The multi-store model of memory - Features of each store: coding, capacity and duration. 	Memory <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Models of memory: Working memory model - Explanations for forgetting - Factors affecting EWT - The Cognitive Interview Social Influence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conformity - Explanations for obedience & resistance - Minority influence - Social change 	RM – (48 marks) Approaches (24 marks)	Attachment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explanations of attachment - Types of attachment - Maternal deprivation - Internal working model 	Psychopathology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Characteristics of phobias, depression & OCD. - Behavioural approach – phobias - Cognitive approach – depression - Biological approach – OCD 	Biopsychology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nervous system - Endocrine system - Fight or flight - Localisation of function - Ways of studying the brain - Biological rhythms 	Paper 1 - Introductory topics in psychology (96 marks) 2 hours AS Level – Research Methods (24 marks) Approaches - (24 marks) 1 hour
Skills:	Critical thinking Teamwork Independent research skills Interpersonal and cross-cultural skills Inquiry skills	Critical thinking Teamwork Independent research skills Interpersonal and cross-cultural skills Inquiry skills	Critical thinking Teamwork Independent research skills Interpersonal and cross-cultural skills Inquiry skills		Critical thinking Teamwork Independent research skills Interpersonal and cross-cultural skills Inquiry skills	Critical thinking Teamwork Independent research skills Interpersonal and cross-cultural skills Inquiry skills	Critical thinking Teamwork Independent research skills Interpersonal and cross-cultural skills Inquiry skills	

HGSS Curriculum Map

Year 13 Psychology



Exam Board: AQA	Careers: Forensics: Police / Law Gender: Working with children / social policy / parenting education SZ: Mental health nursing / Psychologist / family therapist / Cognitive behavioural therapist	Co-Curricular:
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	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	AP1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2	AP2
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yr 13 RM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inferential testing Statistical testing Probability and significance Factors affecting the choice of statistical test 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issues & Debates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender Bias Cultural Bias Free will & Determinism Nature vs Nurture debate Holism & Reductionism Idiographic & Nomothetic Ethical Implications of research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forensic Psychology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Top down and bottom up approaches Biological explanations Psychological explanations Dealing with offender behaviour 	Paper 2 – Psychology in Context (96 marks) 2 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Androgyny Chromosomes & Hormones Cognitive explanations Psychodynamic explanation SLT explanation Culture & Media Atypical Gender Development Schizophrenia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Symptoms & Diagnosis Biological explanations & therapies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schizophrenia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psychological explanations & therapies Management and treatments of SZ Revision – all topics Exam Skill 	N/A	N/A
Skills:	Critical thinking Teamwork Independent research skills Interpersonal and cross-cultural skills Inquiry skills Analytical skills	Critical thinking Teamwork Independent research skills Interpersonal and cross-cultural skills Inquiry skills Analytical skills	Critical thinking Teamwork Independent research skills Interpersonal and cross-cultural skills Inquiry skills Analytical skills		Critical thinking Teamwork Independent research skills Interpersonal and cross-cultural skills Inquiry skills Analytical skills	Critical thinking Teamwork Independent research skills Interpersonal and cross-cultural skills Inquiry skills Analytical skills	N/A	