



BBG Academy Curriculum 2025-2026 – Psychology

This document contains details of how the subject is sequenced over the years of delivery. Included are assessment points and the prior learning that will be included in these assessments. It also includes where topics are revisited to maximise student retrieval and retention. Along with curriculum content, opportunities to develop links with careers are also identified in order to bring the relevance of the curriculum into the wider life context.

Curriculum Intent Statement

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind, behaviour and experience. Psychologists carry out research to investigate the way people think, behave and respond to others. Psychology is a challenging subject, but extremely interesting and enjoyable. Because the subject matter is about people, it is applicable to nearly all career paths and will enrich your understanding of yourself and others.

GCSE assessment dates

Assessment week 1 – 06.10.25

Assessment week 2 – 12.01.26

Term	Content	Sequencing	Assessment	Careers links & Experiences
<p>Summer 2 4 weeks</p>	<p>Memory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The information processing approach • Stages of memory including short-term memory and long-term memory • Atkinson and Shiffrin’s Multi-store Model of Memory (1968) • Study: Peterson and Peterson (1959) • Bartlett’s Theory of Reconstructive Memory (1932), including description, evidence and evaluation • Study: Bartlett’s War of the Ghosts (1932) • Amnesia: retrograde and anterograde • Issue and debate: Reductionism and holism 	<p><u>Previous topics built on in this topic:</u></p> <p>Scientific investigations and methods (science curriculum)</p> <p><u>Subject Terminology:</u></p> <p>Input, Storage, Encoding, Output, Retrieval, Short-term memory, Long-term memory, Duration, Capacity, Rehearse, Displacement, Interference, Amnesia, Schema, Active reconstruction, Omission, Transformation, Familiarisation, Rationalisation, Sensory register, Primacy,</p>	<p>Consolidation/Summative assessment:</p> <p>Six a day starter (whiteboard assessments)</p> <p>End of unit: memory test</p>	<p>Careers link:</p> <p>Educational psychologist</p>

		Recency, Reductionism, Holism		
Autumn 1 8 weeks	Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early brain development including critical parts of brain • Piaget’s developmental theory, including an evaluation of the theory • Study: Piaget and Inhelder (1956) • Dweck’s mindset theory • Study: Gunderson et al. (2013) • Willingham’s learning theory of development • Issues and debates: moral development, including Piaget’s view 	Previous topics built on in this topic: Schemas (memory unit) Scientific investigations and methods Memory topic <u>Subject Terminology:</u> Forebrain, Midbrain, Hindbrain, Cerebellum, Medulla oblongata, Involuntary response, Neural connection, Object permanence, Symbolic play, Egocentrism, Animism, Centration, Irreversibility, Morality, Schema, Adaption, Assimilation, Accommodation, Equilibrium, Mindset, Growth mindset,	Consolidation/Summative assessment: Six a day starter (whiteboard assessments) (memory/Development) Quizizz (memory/Development) Retrieval grids (memory/Development) End of unit Development test based on GCSE structure	Careers link: Social care/education Clinical psychologist

	<p>Neuropsychology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anatomy of the brain • Synapses and neurotransmitters • Brain lateralisation • Study: Sperry (1968) • Neurological damage and its effects • Study: Damasio et al.(1994) • Issues and debates: How psychology has changed over time 	<p>Working memory, Decentration, Person praise, Process praise, Entity theory/motivational framework, Incremental theory/motivational framework, Morals, Heteronomous, Autonomous,</p> <p><u>Previous topics built on in this topic:</u></p> <p>Early brain development (development unit)</p> <p>Scientific investigations and methods Memory/development topic</p> <p><u>Subject Terminology:</u></p> <p>Brain Hemisphere Cerebrum Frontal Lobe Temporal Lobe Parietal Lobe Occipital Lobe Cerebellum Lateralisation of function Asymmetrical</p>	<p>Consolidation/Summative assessment:</p> <p>Six a day starter (whiteboard assessments) (memory/Development/Neuropsychology)</p> <p>Quizizz (memory/Development/ Neuropsychology)</p> <p>Retrieval grids (memory/Development/Neuropsychology)</p> <p>End of unit: Neuropsychology test based on GCSE structure</p> <p>Mock Assessment week 1 - 06.10.25</p> <p>GCSE past paper based on memory, development, neuropsychology and research methods units.</p>	<p>Careers link:</p> <p>Clinical psychologist</p>
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		<p>Corpus Callosum</p> <p>Broca's Area</p> <p>Spatial Awareness</p> <p>Neuron</p> <p>Synaptic Transmission</p> <p>Synapse</p> <p>Axon</p> <p>Terminal branch/button</p> <p>Vesicle</p> <p>Receptors</p> <p>Pre-frontal cortex</p> <p>Fusiform Facial Area</p> <p>White Matter</p> <p>EEG</p> <p>MRI</p>		
<p>Autumn 2 7 weeks</p>	<p>Psychological problems</p> <p>Addiction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symptoms/features/diagnosis • Biological explanation - Genetics (DRD2) and inheritance • Environmental Explanation (learning theories) • Treatments (drugs/therapy) • Study – Young (2007) <p>Depression:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symptoms/features/diagnosis • Biological explanation - Genetics (5HTT) and inheritance • Environmental Explanation (cognitive explanation -Ellis/Beck) • Treatments (drugs/therapy) • Study – Caspi (2003) <p>Issues and debates: Nature Vs Nurture</p>	<p><u>Previous topics built on in this topic:</u></p> <p>Neurological function & Synaptic functioning (neuropsychology unit)</p> <p>Scientific investigations and methods Memory/development topic</p> <p><u>Subject Terminology:</u></p> <p>Unipolar depression</p> <p>Monozygotic twins</p> <p>Dizygotic twins</p> <p>Genetic predisposition</p> <p>Diathesis-stress model</p> <p>Deterministic</p> <p>Free will</p>	<p>Consolidation/Summative assessment:</p> <p>Six a day starter (whiteboard assessments) (memory/Development/Neuropsychology/psychological problems)</p> <p>Quizizz (memory/Development/Neuropsychology/psych problems)</p> <p>Retrieval grids</p> <p>End of unit: Psych problems</p>	<p>Careers link:</p> <p>Charity worker</p> <p>Care worker</p> <p>CBT Therapist</p> <p>Social worker</p> <p>Prison staff</p>

	<p>Social influences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obedience (Milgram) • Bystander Effect (Piliavin 1969 -key study) • Deindividuation (Haney, Banks and Zimbardo 1973 – key study) • Conformity (Asch - line study) <p>Issues and debates: culture/social issues</p>	<p>Cognitive theory</p> <p>Negative triad</p> <p>Nature</p> <p>Nurture</p> <p>Neurotransmitters</p> <p>Reuptake</p> <p>Placebo</p> <p><u>Previous topics built on in this topic:</u></p> <p>Learning theories (Psychological problem unit)</p> <p>Ethics (Evaluation consideration from the previous unit)</p> <p><u>Subject Terminology:</u></p> <p>Obedience</p> <p>Authority figure</p> <p>Conformity</p> <p>Compliance</p> <p>Normative social influence</p> <p>Internalisation</p> <p>Informational social influence</p> <p>Identification</p> <p>Deindividuation</p> <p>Bystander effect</p> <p>Diffusion of responsibility</p> <p>Pluralistic ignorance</p> <p>Locus of control</p> <p>Internal locus of control</p> <p>External locus of control</p>	<p>Consolidation/Summative assessment:</p> <p>Six a day starter (whiteboard assessments) (memory/Development/Neuropsychology/psych problems/Social influences)</p> <p>Retrieval grids</p> <p>Quizizz (memory/Development/Neuropsychology/psych problems/Social influences)</p> <p>End of unit: Social influences</p>	<p>Careers link:</p> <p>Charity worker</p> <p>Care worker</p> <p>CBT Therapist</p> <p>Social worker</p> <p>Prison staff</p>
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		<p>Blind obedience</p> <p>Momentum of compliance</p> <p>Authoritarian personality</p> <p>F-Scale</p> <p>Prosocial behaviour</p> <p>Antisocial behaviour</p> <p>Culture</p> <p>Individualistic culture</p> <p>Collectivistic culture</p>		
<p>Spring 1 6 weeks</p>	<p>Sleeping and dreaming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Features, function and benefits of sleep • Internal and external influences of sleep • Study: Siffé (1975) • Symptoms and explanations of sleep disorders (Insomnia/Narcolepsy) • Activation-synthesis theory (Hobson and McCarley) • Freudian Theory of dreaming • Study: Little Hans case study (1909) 	<p>Previous topics built on in this topic:</p> <p>Neurological function & Synaptic functioning (neuropsychic unit)</p> <p>Scientific investigations and methods (Memory/development topic)</p> <p>Learning theories (psychological problems unit)</p> <p>Subject Terminology:</p> <p>EEG</p> <p>Brain waves</p> <p>REM sleep</p> <p>Sleep Cycle</p> <p>Circadian rhythm</p> <p>Ultradian rhythm</p> <p>Suprachiasmatic Nuclei (SCN)</p> <p>Sleep-wake cycle</p> <p>Endogenous</p> <p>Exogenous</p>	<p>Mock Assessment week 2 12.01.26</p> <p>GCSE past paper based on development, memory, psychological problems, neuropsychology, social influences & issues and debates</p> <p>Consolidation/Summative assessment:</p> <p>Six a day starter (whiteboard assessments) (memory/Development/Neuropsychology/psych problems/Social influences/Sleeping and dreaming)</p> <p>Retrieval grids</p> <p>Quizizz (memory/Development/Neuropsychology/psych problems/Social influences /Sleeping and dreaming)</p> <p>End of unit: Sleeping and dreaming)</p>	<p>Careers link:</p> <p>Sleep therapist</p> <p>Psychoanalysis/psychodynamic therapist</p> <p>Criminal psychologist.</p> <p>Police</p> <p>Prison officer</p> <p>Parole officer</p>

	<p>Criminal psychology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning theory explanation on criminality • Study: Bandura, Ross and Ross (1961) • Study: Charlton et al. (2000) • Biological explanation of criminality • Recidivism rate • Effects of punishment • Effects of rehabilitation 	<p>ID</p> <p>Ego</p> <p>Superego</p> <p>Condensation</p> <p>Displacement</p> <p>Secondary elaboration</p> <p>Previous topics built on in this topic:</p> <p>Neurological function & Synaptic functioning (neuropsychology unit)</p> <p>Genetics and inheritance (Psychological problems unit)</p> <p>Subject Terminology:</p> <p>Crime</p> <p>Primary Reinforcers</p> <p>Secondary Reinforcers</p> <p>Modelling</p> <p>Vicarious Reinforcement</p> <p>Intrinsic Motivation</p> <p>Extrinsic Motivation</p> <p>EPQ</p> <p>Recidivism</p> <p>Rehabilitation</p> <p>Pro-social behaviour</p> <p>Anti-social behaviour</p> <p>Anger diaries-</p>	<p>Consolidation/Summative assessment:</p> <p>Six a day starter (whiteboard assessments) (memory/Development/Neuropsychology/psych problems/Social influences/Sleeping and dreaming/Criminal psychology)</p> <p>Retrieval grids</p> <p>Quizizz (memory/Development/Neuropsychology/psychological problems/Social influences /Sleeping and dreaming/Criminal psychology)</p> <p>End of unit: Criminal psychology)</p>	
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<p>Spring 2 6 weeks</p>	<p>Recap of paper one topics (Application & Evaluation skills focus)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development/memory/neuropsychology/psychological problems & social influence. • Command words • Issues and debates. • Exam prep 	<p>Previous topics built on in this topic:</p> <p>All of the above</p> <p><u>Subject Terminology:</u></p> <p>All of the above</p>	<p>Consolidation/Summative assessment:</p> <p>Weekly exam questions (cumulative to build stamina and breadth of knowledge base)</p>	
<p>Summer 1 8 weeks</p>	<p>Recap of paper two topics (Application & Evaluation skills focus).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research methods/Sleeping and dreaming/Criminal psychology • Command words • Issues and debates • Exam prep 	<p>Previous topics built on in this topic:</p> <p>All of the above</p> <p><u>Subject Terminology:</u></p> <p>All of the above</p>	<p>Consolidation/Summative assessment:</p> <p>Weekly exam questions (cumulative to build stamina and breadth of knowledge base)</p> <p>Formal GCSE examinations</p>	