

Psychology – Key Stage 4

Intent

The Psychology curriculum offered at BBG Academy is designed to allow our students to develop scientific and critical thinking skills, focusing specifically on the study of the mind, behaviour and experience. This also allows students to explore practical applications regarding their own behaviour, learning and development. The course supports and encourages the students, be enabling them to develop; evaluation, knowledge and practical skills though carrying out and critiquing psychological research. Psychology is not currently offered to students in years 7 or 8 but is an option that can be taken at GCSE level. Year 10 and 11 students will follow the Edexcel GCSE course in Psychology and will build upon their key skills: knowledge, evaluation and application skills that they develop throughout the course.

Implementation:

Term	Year 10 or 11 One Year Option		
	Topic	Knowledge	Skills
Term 1	Development Memory Psychological Problems Neuro Psychology Social Influences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early brain development, Piaget’s theory of cognitive development, Dweck’s growth mindset theory. • Structure and processes of memory, the features of short and long term memory, Bartlett’s active process of memory. • Structures of the brain, lateralisation of function in hemispheres, how neurons and synapses work • The impact of neurological damage on cognitive behaviour • Features, explanations and treatment of unipolar depression and addiction • The bystander affect, conformity, obedience, deindividuation, how to avoid blind obedience 	Knowledge acquisition/consolidation and retention: - to explore and retain relevant information from the current topics Application skills: - Applying theory to real world situations as well as a given text. Evaluation skills: - exploring the strengths and weaknesses of both the theories and key studies covered within this unit. Extended writing techniques
	Research methods Criminal psychology Sleeping and Dreaming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designing psychological research, data analysis, data handling, strength and weaknesses of research methods, ethical issues within psychological research. • Learning theories as an explanation of criminality, biological explanation of criminality, the effects of punishment on recidivism, how criminals are rehabilitated. • Function, features and benefits of sleep, internal and external influences on sleep, sleeping disorders (insomnia/narcolepsy), Freud’s theory of dreaming, activation synthesis theory of dreaming. 	Data handling – development of mathematical skills Data presentation – graph and table production. Knowledge acquisition/consolidation and retention: - to explore and retain relevant information from the current topics Application skills: - Applying theory to real world situations as well as a given text. Evaluation skills: - exploring the strengths and weaknesses of both the theories and key studies covered within this unit. Extended writing techniques

Term	Year 10 or 11 One Year Option		
	Topic	Knowledge	Skills
Term 3	Exam writing skills Revision techniques Knowledge recap		Knowledge retrieval:- to explore and retrieve relevant information from the current topics Revision skills Application skills: - Applying theory to real world situations as well as a given text. Evaluation skills: - exploring the strengths and weaknesses of both the theories and key studies covered within this unit. Extended writing techniques