



Wanstead High School

Education with Character

Psychology Curriculum Content 2025 - 26

Key Stage 5 - Year 12 & 13



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A Level Psychology - Year 12

SUBJECT: Psychology	HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: Ms E. Christofides
QUALIFICATION: A-Level	LENGTH: 2 years (Year 12 & 13)
EXAM BOARD: AQA	SPECIFICATION NO. 7182

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Grade 6 in Biology (or 6 and 6 in Combined Science), Grade 5 in Maths and Grade 5 in English.

Pupils receive 9 lessons of Psychology each fortnight.

The importance of Psychology in the curriculum:

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and how it dictates and influences our behaviour, from communication and memory to thought and emotion. It's about understanding what makes people tick and how this understanding can help us address many of the problems and issues in our society today. It helps Pupils build on skills developed in the sciences and humanities and enable progression into a wide range of other subjects.

Psychology inspires pupils to develop Education with Character by:

Analysing human behaviour and developing a sophisticated and deeper understanding of how we as people change throughout our lives which doesn't only give us valuable knowledge, but it also makes us more sensitive and open to the problems of others and to their suffering or doubts also. It is an excellent subject for showing you the workings of the human brain, and making you aware of the range of conditions that individuals experience and opening your eyes to the world around us.

Skills developed in Psychology are: Transferable skills such as written communication, data analysis, Critical analysis, research skills, independent thinking, and the ability to form an argument based on considered evidence. It will explore the fascinating human mind and expand your awareness of why we behave how we do.

What is taught	When is it taught (Terms or Half Terms)	Reading list and Literacy focus	Where the curriculum is ambitious
Approaches to Psychology (Teacher 1) Topics will include: Origins of psychology: Wundt, introspection and the emergence of psychology as a science. The divisions of the nervous system	September - October	Across all unit's terminology will be used with the expectation that pupils use this within their written work and in formal assessments. Checklists are given to pupils as well as Booklets.	A Level Psychology uses a rich range of key concepts which correlate to different subjects, pupils will be expected to develop their confidence in using these words appropriately.
Social Influence (Teacher 2) Topics will include: Types of conformity: Conformity to social roles: Explanations for obedience: Social Change, Minority influence	September - October		
Research methods (Teacher 1) Topics will include: Experimental methods, Ethical issues and ways of dealing with them, Observational techniques, Types of Data, Statistical testing and correlations	Chunk 1: October - December and Chunk 2 Feb - April	Wider reading resources will be posted on Google Classroom to fit with the delivery of each unit.	Pupils will be given wider reading and examples beyond the curriculum.
Memory (Teacher 2) Topics will include: Coding, capacity and duration of memory, The multi- store model of memory, long term memory. Explanations of forgetting,	October - January	Pupils will have access to the electronic textbook.	

factors affecting accuracy of eye witness testimony and how to improve accuracy			
Psychopathology (Teacher 2) Topics will include: Definitions of abnormality, Explanations and Treatments of OCD, Depression and Phobias	January - March		
Attachment (Teacher 2) Topics will include: Caregiver infant interactions, Animal studies of attachment, Bowlby's theory of maternal deprivation and influence of early attachment on later relationships.	February - May		
Consolidation of Content and revision /Mocks	May - June		

How are pupils informally and formally assessed?	There are three exam papers for this qualification, each of 2 hours in length. Throughout the course pupils will sit real exam questions at the end of each topic and these may include Challenge Weeks. These will be sat under exam conditions and pupils will only be notified of the units being tested and not the actual content. Pupils will also have an exam style question which can be a combination of extended writing or short end questions. There are also a range of different exam style questions pupils complete in class in timed conditions.
Developing Independent and Home Learning Skills	Pupils have an extended reading list which also involves podcasts, Ted Talks, Netflix documentaries and a variety of enrichment activities. This can also be found on Google classroom. Lessons are posted on Google classroom and a range of stretch and challenge tasks are uploaded, along with past papers and exam style questions. Pupils also have access to the electronic textbook where they can independently make notes and prepare for the next chapter: Extended reading: AQA Psychology for A Level Year 1 and AS (Cara Flanagan), The complete companion pupil book Psychology A Level Year 1 and AS (Cardwell Cara Flanagan), Psychology Review, The Lucifer Effect by Phillip Zimbardo, The Social Animal by Elliot Aronson.
Useful e-Learning Resources (e.g., web links)	https://app.senecalearning.com/courses?Price=Free https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/as-and-A-Level/psychology-7181-7182/assessment-resources

Equipment for lessons	Black or blue pen, green pen, pencil, eraser, ruler, highlighter, glue stick, folders and file dividers.
Enrichment activities	Places to visit: Freud Museum, Science Museum Websites and lectures: http://www.ted.com/talks/philip_zimbardo_on_the_psychology_of_evil?language=en https://www.ted.com/talks/georgette_mulheir_the_tragedy_of_orphanages?language=en http://www.ted.com/talks/martin_seligman_on_the_state_of_psychology?language=en http://www.ted.com/talks/joshua_foer_feats_of_memory_anyone_can_do?language=en http://www.ted.com/talks/helen_fisher_tells_us_why_we_love_cheat?language=en http://www.simplypsychology.org/A-Level-psychology.html http://www.loopa.co.uk/ http://www.psychteacher.co.uk/social-influence/conformity-types.htm

Careers curriculum

Studying Psychology will help pupils to develop a wide variety of employability skills as well as developing an understanding of human behaviour and development. Careers may include: Psychologist, Psychotherapist, Social worker, Counsellor., Educational psychologist, Human resource manager, Teacher, Research roles and Forensic Psychologist.

Head of Department and email contact

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A Level Psychology - Year 13

SUBJECT: Psychology	HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: Ms E. Christofides
QUALIFICATION: A-Level	LENGTH: 2 years (Year 12 & 13)
EXAM BOARD: AQA	SPECIFICATION NO. 7182

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Grade 6 in Biology (or 6 and 6 in Combined Science), Grade 5 in Maths and Grade 5 in English.

Pupils receive 10 lessons of Psychology each fortnight.

The importance of Psychology in the curriculum:

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and how it dictates and influences our behaviour, from communication and memory to thought and emotion. It's about understanding what makes people tick and how this understanding can help us address many of the problems and issues in our society today. It helps Pupils build on skills developed in the sciences and humanities and enable progression into a wide range of other subjects.

Psychology inspires pupils to develop Education with Character by:

Analysing human behaviour and developing a sophisticated and deeper understanding of how we as people change throughout our lives which doesn't only give us valuable knowledge, but it also makes us more sensitive and open to the problems of others and to their suffering or doubts also. It is an excellent subject for showing you the workings of the human brain, and making you aware of the range of conditions that individuals experience and opening your eyes to the world around us.

Skills developed in Psychology are: Transferable skills such as written communication, data analysis, Critical analysis, research skills, independent thinking, and the ability to form an argument based on considered evidence. It will explore the fascinating human mind and expand your awareness of why we behave how we do.

What is taught	When is it taught (Terms or Half Terms)	Reading list and Literacy focus	Where the curriculum is ambitious
Biopsychology (Teacher 1)	September - October	Literacy focus Across all unit's terminology will be used with the expectation that pupils use this within their written work and in formal assessments. Checklists are given to pupils as well as Booklets.	A Level Psychology uses a rich, range of key concepts which correlate to different subjects, pupils will be expected to develop their confidence in using these words appropriately.
Issues and Debates (Teacher 2) Topics will include: Gender and culture in psychology – universality and bias. Free will and determinism. The scientific emphasis on causal explanations. The nature-nurture debate, Holism and reductionism and Ethical implications of research studies and theory	September - November		
Research Methods (Teacher 1) Topics will include: Correlations, Case studies and content analysis, types of Validity, Probability and significance, Parametric tests of difference and tests of correlation	<u>Chunk 3 - October - December</u>	Wider reading resources will be posted on Google Classroom to fit with the delivery of each unit.	Pupils will be given wider reading and examples beyond the curriculum.
Cognition and Development (Teacher 2) Topics will include: Piaget's theory of cognitive development/intellectual	October - December	Pupils will have access to the	

development, Vygotsky's theory of cognitive development, Baillargeon's explanation of infant abilities and Social Cognition		electronic textbook.	
Forensic Psychology (Teacher 2) Topics will include: Defining and measuring crime, offender profiling, biological explanations, psychological explanations, Dealing with offending behaviour.	January - April		
Stress (Teacher 2) Topics will include: Physiology of stress, The role of stress in illness, Sources of stress, measuring stress, Individual differences in stress, Managing and coping with stress, gender differences in coping with stress and the role of social support in coping with stress.	January - April		
Consolidation of Content and revision	May -June		

How are pupils informally and formally assessed?	There are three exam papers for this qualification, each of 2 hours in length. Throughout the course pupils will sit real exam questions at the end of each topic and these may include Challenge Weeks. These will be sat under exam conditions and pupils will only be notified of the units being tested and not the actual content. Pupils will also have an exam style question which can be a combination of extended writing or short end questions. There are also a range of different exam style questions pupils complete in class in timed conditions.
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Equipment for lessons	Black or blue pen, green pen, pencil, eraser, ruler, highlighter, glue stick, file dividers, folders.
Enrichment activities	Places to visit: Freud Museum, Science Museum Websites and lectures: http://www.ted.com/talks/philip_zimbardo_on_the_psychology_of_evil?language=en https://www.ted.com/talks/georgette_mulheir_the_tragedy_of_orphanages?language=en http://www.ted.com/talks/martin_seligman_on_the_state_of_psychology?language=en http://www.ted.com/talks/joshua_foer_feats_of_memory_anyone_can_do?language=en http://www.ted.com/talks/helen_fisher_tells_us_why_we_love_cheat?language=en

	http://www.simplypsychology.org/A Level-psychology.html http://www.loopa.co.uk/ http://www.psychteacher.co.uk/social-influence/conformity-types.htm
Careers curriculum	Studying Psychology will help pupils to develop a wide variety of employability skills as well as developing an understanding of human behaviour and development. Careers may include: Psychologist, Psychotherapist, Social worker, Counsellor, Educational psychologist, Human resource manager, Teacher, Research roles and Forensic Psychologist.
Head of Department and email contact	Ms E Christofides e.christofides@wansteadhigh.co.uk