

CURRICULUM SUBJECT: PSYCHOLOGY

SUBJECT CONTACT: E HARDY

“If positive psychology teaches us anything, it is that all of us are a mixture of strength and weaknesses. No one has it all, and no one lacks it all.”– Christopher Peterson

CURRICULUM INTENT

Why is it important that pupils at Vale of York study Psychology?

Psychology is a subject all of us are affected by, the way we think, learn, behave is key to our communication with others. Every aspect of life involves Psychology, and the ability to develop research and observation skills will link with working in the wider world. Our pupils develop these skills and so many more, which supports employability skills but also with Psychology being one of the most popular A Level courses in the country it prepares them for success at Key Stage 5 if they choose to move on with their studies.

CURRICULUM STATEMENT

At KS4: Psychology is only studied at Key Stage 4. This GCSE is an opportunity to learn more about the human condition and is an excellent way to understand human behaviours. Psychology is the scientific study of the brain and behaviour. We follow the AQA GCSE course at Vale of York Academy, this course supports the move to the A level Psychology course.

Psychology is a subject that encourages you to consider why humans behave in the ways they do and understand the reasons and theories behind their actions. Through studying psychology it builds empathy, understanding and respect of a variety of mental health issues. It is also a subject that evaluates the competing theories in psychology, as well as considering the strengths and limitations of research that has been conducted by others. Not only can we look at the research of renowned psychologists but we can plan and test our own theories and experimental designs in a fun practical way in this GCSE.

CURRICULUM SEQUENCE

Key Stage 4:

	Year 10	Year 11
Curriculum time (pw)	5 hours over two weeks	5 hours over two weeks
Curriculum framework	AQA GCSE Psychology Two written exams: 1 hour 45 minutes each 100 marks EACH EACH EXAM is 50% of GCSE	
Core knowledge & understanding covered	<p>Cognition and behaviour Memory Perception Development Research methods</p> <p>Social context and behaviour Social influence Language, thought and communication Brain and neuropsychology Psychological problems</p> <p>click here for the full AQA GCSE Psychology specification</p>	<p>Revision/Exam Skills Covering the course.</p> <p>Cognition and behaviour Memory Perception Development Research methods</p> <p>Social context and behaviour Social influence Language, thought and communication Brain and neuropsychology Psychological problems</p>
Subject specific skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describing knowledge acquired • Applying knowledge acquired with examples of real world applications • Analysing and evaluating knowledge acquired. • Evaluation of the work of others, including Psychologists. • Experimental design application • Cross topic links. • Statistics, and data analysis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describing knowledge acquired • Applying knowledge acquired with examples of real world applications • Analysing and evaluating knowledge acquired. • Evaluation of the work of others, including Psychologists. • Experimental design application • Cross topic links. • Statistics, and data analysis.

Personal attributes evolved that support learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Literacy/extended writing supporting English ● Numeracy- statistical analysis covering part of the Maths curriculum ● Communication –verbal and non -verbal will help in English oracy and presentations ● Group/teamwork skills connecting with all other subjects ● ICT research skills and ICT presentation skills ● Sport Psychology for GCSE PE ● Neuropsychology supporting Biology/Science units. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Literacy/extended writing supporting English ● Numeracy- statistical analysis covering part of the Maths curriculum ● Communication –verbal and non -verbal will help in English oracy and presentations ● Group/teamwork skills connecting with all other subjects ● ICT research skills and ICT presentation skills ● Sport Psychology for GCSE PE ● Neuropsychology supporting Biology/Science units.
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CURRICULUM OPPORTUNITIES

Within the formal curriculum	<p><i>In Year 10 pupils are given the opportunity to develop studies, and carry out these in a practical environment, we have visits from practising Psychologists or video links to help pupils understand careers opportunities and application of the skills they are learning.</i></p> <p><i>In Year 11 we are learning about social influence and watching and discussing the crowd and collective behaviours that are relevant to the time, news reels and live streams support their awareness of anti-social behaviours and cultural differences.</i></p>
Beyond the formal curriculum (out of lesstime)	<p><i>Pupils can work in extension classes on subjects within Psychology during after school classes, or preparation for A level classes towards the end of Year 11.</i></p> <p><i>Many of our Psychology students take up the ISSP Psychology master classes delivered across the city to enhance knowledge and their interest in wider aspects of the subject</i></p>
Links to other curriculum areas	<p><i>Psychology links to many subjects but in particular Mathematics and Science.</i></p> <p><i>Maths- we learn about descriptive statistics, computation, diagrams for quantitative data and how to present these in a meaningful way.</i></p> <p><i>Science -we learn about the brain, the nervous system, neuron structure and functions, and evolution.</i></p>
Preparation for adult life	<p><i>Psychology teaches memory skills, understanding learning methods for lifelong learning, recognising behaviours and empathy for psychological problems we can all face over a lifetime. It develops transferable skills for the world of work in any job role but also forming relationships with good communication skills. The course covers skills that can be used in interviews, group activities and much more. It is also a great course for preparing for further education, training study skills, effective recall and application of knowledge using case studies.</i></p>

CURRICULUM IMPLEMENTATION

As an Academy we have a range of clear standards and expectations of our pupils however each subject area has its own individual practices and habits that ensure that it can function to its optimum.

Curriculum delivery:

Psychology is taught in a modular, topic based way. Each examined topic is taught using a range of teaching methods, and will be assessed using exam board questions at the end of each topic. This allows for exam question practise as well as a check in understanding and the ability to apply learning.

Homework:

	Frequency	Expected time to complete	Completion notes and handing in	What to do if stuck
10	Weekly	Up to 1 hour	All pupils are expected to do homework at home or in the homework club at school.	Use e-book and google classroom support.
11	Weekly	Up to 1-2 hours	A lot of year 11 homework is revision, so time making revision resources such as flash cards is acceptable.	Use e-book and google classroom support.

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD

	Resources to support your child	Relevance - How it helps
Exam course	<p>We run a lesson 6 every two weeks for catch up and revision support for all students to attend. The day changes each year so ask your child for the P6 timetable.</p> <p>We have an e-book accessible for all students on the course and can be used on chromebooks, tablets, laptops and PC's.</p> <p>AQA Psychology for GCSE, Illuminate Publishing A revision guide is available on parentpay</p> <p>My Revision Notes, AQA GCSE (9-1) Psychology, Hodder Education</p>	<p>This will give small group support for students who would like teacher support rather than online.</p> <p>This is the electronic version of the book we use in class.</p> <p>The revision guide is an alternative version with exam style questions and answers.</p>

WIDER INTEREST

Careers Information

Studying psychology gives you a broad range of skills that span both science and the arts and opens up opportunities with a variety of employers.

The GCSE in Psychology can lead to studying A Level in Psychology at post-16 and then a degree in Psychology in most universities. Psychology is useful for any job that requires lots of interaction or an understanding of human behaviour and development.

People with skills in psychology are sought after in business, management, teaching, research, social work and careers in medicine and healthcare. Psychologists have excellent communication and active listening skills.

If you are interested in studying the subject at degree and postgraduate level in order to become a psychologist, you can work in a huge range of areas including:

Sports – helping athletes to build mental strategies to improve their performance and handle pressure.

Education – studying child development and helping children experiencing difficulties with their education.

Clinical and counselling – treating people with mental health needs.

Forensic – assessing and treating criminal behaviour, which can involve working with offenders and victims of crime.

Occupational – aiming to increase the effectiveness of an organisation and improve job satisfaction.

Neuropsychology – studying how the physical function of the brain affects the way we behave and helping to treat people suffering from brain injuries.

Other reference and revision support:

www.gojimo.com/gcse-psychology-revision

www.thestudentroom.co.uk/gcse/subjects/psychology

Memory Workbook – Learndojo

<https://learndojo.org/gcse/aqa-psychology>

www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/gcse/psychology-8182