

Psychology

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Curriculum Intent

At Forge Valley School we believe that Psychology is a worthwhile and rewarding subject that anyone can choose to study and that all who do will benefit from in a wide variety of ways. Psychology offers insight into biological, cognitive and sociobehavioural perspectives on various aspects of humanity. Students of Psychology develop a deeper appreciation of individual differences as well as moral, cultural, spiritual and ethical considerations. As well as developing knowledge and skills needed to achieve examination success; we aim to support students in maturing their ideas about the humans of their world and, of course, self-reflection and personal development alongside their study of relevant topics.

The AQA specification builds on skills developed in the sciences and humanities, and enables progression into a wide range of other subjects. The course at Forge Valley offers an engaging and effective introduction to Psychology. Students will learn the fundamentals of the subject and develop skills valued by Higher Education (HE) and employers, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research. Informed by teachers, HE and the British Psychological Society, the curriculum is up-to-date and relevant to 21st Century Science reflecting significant advances and changes in the subject and providing a coherent and holistic programme of study.

Our pupils will have plenty of opportunities to develop skills which can be used over a wide range of future careers:

- Our deliberate practice relating to Oracy and Literacy aims to develop students' confidence in language use and advanced communication as well as collaboration and teamwork.
- Comprehension and Written communication are key to success in Psychology and students develop reading and writing skills that match assessment objectives at level 3 but also reflect the academic requirements of undergraduate study.
- Applied Numeracy skills such as data analysis, statistical methods and data presentation are developed in context and are broadly applicable to a wide range of subject and vocational requirements.
- Our wide resource base incorporates well-supported online learning platforms and students are taught how to study independently; learning effective strategies based on metacognitive principles and Learning Scientists research.
- Wherever possible, topics are made directly relevant to students' own experiences and development. Topics such as Gender, Forensic psychology, Child Development, Memory, Social Influence and Clinical psychology complement the various Approaches, Issues and Debates to facilitate critical thinking skills development, especially evaluation and synthesis of ideas.

- Students develop an understanding of a wide range of Research Methods and have opportunities to exercise their critical evaluation and informed creativity through considering Research Design.

For our aspiring Psychologists, Cognitive Neuroscientists and a wide range of other vocational aspirations, we aim to provide them with support and guidance about HE, Training and Employment. We aim to support every individual in making personal and academic progress that positively affects their lives beyond the curriculum when they leave Forge Valley School.

	Core Knowledge	Procedural Knowledge
Year 12	Y12 Research Methods is taught for one hour per week. Y12 Approaches is taught in September. Other units covered: Social Influence Memory Attachment Clinical Psychology and Mental Health Y12 Biopsychology content Summer term: Y13 Research Methods Y13 Approaches	- AO1: demonstrate knowledge and understanding of psychological concepts, theories, research studies, research methods and ethical issues - AO2: apply psychological knowledge and understanding of content in a range of contexts - AO3: analyse, interpret and evaluate psychological concepts, theories, research studies and research methods Knowledge and understanding of research methods, practical research skills and mathematical skills will be assessed throughout. These skills will be developed through study of the specification content and through ethical practical research activities, involving: - designing research - conducting research - analysing and interpreting data. In carrying out practical research activities, students will manage associated risks and use information and communication technology (ICT). In addition, students will evaluate therapies and treatments, including their appropriateness and effectiveness for phobias, depression and OCD.
Year 13	Issues and Debates is taught for one hour per week. Other units covered: Biopsychology (Y13 content)	AO1: demonstrate knowledge and understanding of psychological concepts, theories, research studies, research methods and ethical issues

	Gender Schizophrenia Forensic Psychology	◆ AO2: apply psychological knowledge and understanding of content in a range of contexts ◆ AO3: analyse, interpret and evaluate psychological concepts, theories, research studies and research methods Knowledge and understanding of research methods, practical research skills and mathematical skills will be assessed throughout. These skills will be developed through study of the specification content and through ethical practical research activities, involving: • designing research • conducting research • analysing and interpreting data. In carrying out practical research activities, students will manage associated risks and use information and communication technology (ICT). In addition students will evaluate therapies and treatments, including their appropriateness and effectiveness for schizophrenia.
Homework Students are given a blue half-termly sheet to log all independent study work – 5 hours per week. One hour will focus on research methods and the other four hours focus on the other units they are studying. Types of activities students will complete include: - Lesson preparation reading/activities - Lesson consolidation tasks – worksheets, mind maps/grids, reading and viewing material - Essay writing or preparation for a timed essay in class - Examination question completion - Preparing for end of unit assessments through rehearsal and retrieval activities - Super-curricular activities		
Assessment At the end of Year 13, students will complete 3 AQA external written examinations. Each examination is 2 hours, 96 marks and forms 33.3% of the A-level. Questions are multiple choice, short answer and extended writing. Paper 1 – Introductory topics in psychology • Section A: Social influence, 24 marks • Section B: Memory, 24 marks		

- Section C: Attachment, 24 marks
- Section D: Clinical Psychology and Mental Health, 24 marks

Paper 2 - Psychology in Context

- Section A: Approaches, 24 marks
- Section B: Biopsychology, 24 marks
- Section C: Research methods, 48 marks

Paper 3 - Issues and options in psychology

- Section A: Issue and Debates, 24 marks
- Section B: Gender, 24 marks
- Section C: Schizophrenia, 24 marks
- Section D: Forensic psychology, 24 marks

To support this, throughout the course students complete end of unit assessments, timed essays and a variety of examination questions packs to ensure they are fully prepared for these examinations. This is in addition to other the other independent study work and class-based learning.

Links to Personal Development

There is significant potential for psychological literacy to benefit the global community. The desire to help, coupled with psychological understanding, can contribute to the ability of students to positively contribute to the world in which we live. Psychology has the potential to facilitate behaviour and attitude change to help us to overcome the challenges that face us in the modern world. Solving our problems as a global community requires people with an understanding of psychology.

How is my Knowledge further developed in Year X? (next academic year)

In year 12 students build on their literacy, numeracy and scientific enquiry skills from GCSE. They study a variety of approaches to explaining behaviour and the research methods to gain this information. These two units underpin the course and support the learning of social influence, memory, attachment and clinical psychology. At the end of year 12 they begin the Y13 elements and look at some more approaches and continue with research methods.

In year 13 they apply the approaches and research methods to the units of gender, schizophrenia and Forensic psychology. This is all further supported by the Issues and Debates unit.

Post 18:

Psychology students develop a number of significant skills that are valued by HE and employers, including; critical analysis (analysing arguments and evidence), independent thinking and research skills (testing hypotheses and making informed

judgements), the ability to apply a scientific approach and mathematical skills to research demonstrating its importance in the real world.

Possible career options: • Marketing • Business development • Accountancy • Human resources • Forensic psychology • Occupational therapy • Clinical psychology • Nursing • Teaching.

Possible degree options: • Psychology • English studies • Sociology • Business studies • Teaching • Sport and exercise science • Law