

# The Samworth Church Academy

## Curriculum Journey: Psychology (A Level)



### A Level

#### Year 12

Autumn	<i>Social influence</i> Study of behaviour in a social context, different types of research. <i>Memory</i> Models of memory as well as theories of forgetting
Spring	<i>Approaches to Psychology</i> Looking at the six areas of psychology and key psychologists. <i>Psychopathology</i> Investigation into common mental illnesses such as OCD.
Summer	<i>Biopsychology</i> Structure and function of the brain and nervous system in relation to behaviour. <i>Research Methods</i> Looks at the way research is conducted in the field of psychology.

#### Year 13

Autumn	<i>Issues and Debates</i> Structure and function of the brain and nervous system in relation to behaviour. <i>Relationships</i> Looks at the way research is conducted in the field of psychology.
Spring	<i>Stress</i> Biological and social explanations for stress. <i>Forensic Psychology</i> Looking at the way in which psychologists can predict and change offending behaviour.
Summer	<i>Research Methods</i> Introduces statistical analysis within psychology as well as the use of inferential statistics in data.

# Full Overview

## Psychology (A Level)

### Year 12

Autumn	Spring	Summer
<p><b>Introduction topics in Psychology - Social influence and Memory.</b></p> <p><b>Social influence</b> Social influence is a great introduction to psychology as it uses the study of behaviour in a social context that students can easily understand. Introduces students to the basics of types of research as well as key terms to do with sampling and construction of scientific investigations.</p> <p><b>Memory</b> Introduces students to idea of cognitions being hypothetical constructs, meaning, although we are unable to see them, we can measure them creatively and accurately using controlled experiments. Looks at models of memory as well as theories of forgetting. Helps students to understand ways in which they can consolidate their own learning.</p>	<p><b>Approaches to psychology and Psychopathology.</b></p> <p><b>Approaches to psychology</b> looks at the 6 different areas of psychology, getting students to make distinctions between different psychologists. It improves students evaluation skills (AO3), as it allows them to "compare and contrast" the strengths and limitations of different areas.</p> <p><b>Psychopathology</b> builds on the approaches by allowing students to use them to investigate common mental illnesses (Depression and OCD). It further allows students to apply psychology to real word case studies (AO2)</p>	<p><b>Biospsychology and Research methods 1</b></p> <p><b>Biospsychology</b> looks at the structure and function of the brain and nervous system in explaining human behaviour. It builds on information students will have studied in the biological approach and psychopathology in Y12 Spring. But has additional evaluation points and a focus on Psychology as a science.</p> <p><b>Research methods 1</b> looks at the ways in which research is conducted within psychology. In particular, the different methods used in the different approaches as well as the strengths and limitations of each.</p>

# Full Overview

## Psychology (A Level)

### Year 13

Autumn	Spring	Summer
<p><b>Issues and debates, Relationships.</b></p> <p><b>Issues and debates</b> looks at the current conflicts within the psychological community and uses the approaches to think about weaknesses in research due to issues such as temporal validity and ethnocentrism.</p> <p><b>Relationships</b> is an optional module, students learn about biological, social and environmental explanations of how relationships form as well as theories of maintenance and dissolution.</p>	<p><b>Stress and Forensic psychology.</b></p> <p><b>Stress</b> looks at both biological and social explanations for stress including the role of the limbic system and the fight or flight mechanism. It also looks at ways in which different individuals deal with stress and cultural variations.</p> <p><b>Forensic psychology</b> examines the way in which psychologists can predict and change offending behaviour as well as the role of therapeutic interventions in the prison system.</p>	<p><b>Research methods 2 and revision</b></p> <p>Research methods 2 builds upon research methods 1 by introducing statistical analysis within psychology as well as the use of inferential statistics in data.</p>