



Year 9 Psychology Curriculum Plan

Key concept/ Key question	Overview of the unit	Assessment	Cross Curricular Skills	Suggested reading material and websites:
Social influence	<p>Why do people obey, conform and follow the crowd? In this unit, we will explore these questions through analysing famous and controversial research by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milgram • Asch • Zimbardo • Bickman <p>Through this research, we will explore the different factors influencing people's social decisions and how we can apply these to everyday life</p>	<p>Assessment will be done using GCSE-style essay questions as well as recap tests using smaller GCSE questions</p>	<p>Psychology will develop students' abilities in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literacy: students will develop their skills in extended writing as well as learning how to express themselves precisely and succinctly to fit the needs of the GCSE specification • Numeracy: data and graph analysis will be an integral part of the course – student will learn how to draw conclusions from these different sources • The scientific method and conducting research: throughout the course we will focus on how research is done and evaluate it 	<p>There are many good TED talks that focus on the topics we cover</p> <p>The OCR GCSE specification and example exam papers can be found on their website – some of the topics also link to the old OCR specification, which has more exam papers</p> <p>New Scientist and podcasts such as Freakonomics and All in the Mind contain relevant content too</p>



<p>Mental health</p>	<p>In this unit we explore different types of mental illness, how to explain their occurrence and how we can go about treating those who suffer from them. We will cover the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phobias • OCD • Depression <p>We will also evaluate how we as a society define mental illness and abnormality, digging into the medical diagnosis process</p>	<p>Assessment will be done using GCSE-style essay questions as well as recap tests using smaller GCSE questions</p>	<p>Psychology will develop students' abilities in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literacy: students will develop their skills in extended writing as well as learning how to express themselves precisely and succinctly to fit the needs of the GCSE specification • Numeracy: data and graph analysis will be an integral part of the course – student will learn how to draw conclusions from these different sources • The scientific method and conducting research: throughout the course we will focus on how research is done and evaluate it 	<p>There are many good TED talks that focus on the topics we cover</p> <p>The OCR GCSE specification and example exam papers can be found on their website – some of the topics also link to the old OCR specification, which has more exam papers</p> <p>New Scientist and podcasts such as Freakonomics and All in the Mind contain relevant content too</p>
<p>Sleep and dreaming</p>	<p>Why do we sleep? Why do we dream? We will explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The functions of sleep • The stages of sleep • Different theories of dreaming – Freudian and the activation synthesis theory • Different sleep disorders and the effects of sleep deprivation on functioning • Application of research to how we can improve our own sleep behaviour 	<p>Assessment will be done using GCSE-style essay questions as well as recap tests using smaller GCSE questions</p>	<p>Psychology will develop students' abilities in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literacy: students will develop their skills in extended writing as well as learning how to express themselves precisely and succinctly to fit the needs of the GCSE specification • Numeracy: data and graph analysis will be an integral part of the course – student will learn how to draw conclusions from these different sources • The scientific method and conducting research: throughout the course we will focus on how research is done and evaluate it 	<p>There are many good TED talks that focus on the topics we cover</p> <p>The OCR GCSE specification and example exam papers can be found on their website – some of the topics also link to the old OCR specification, which has more exam papers</p> <p>New Scientist and podcasts such as Freakonomics and All in the Mind contain relevant content too</p>



<p>Criminal psychology</p>	<p>Why do people commit crime and what is the best way to prevent this happening? To answer these questions we will look at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defining crime and different types of crime • Theories of crime: social learning theory and Eysenck's personality theory • Research supporting each of these theories • How we can apply these ideas to improve the criminal justice system 	<p>Assessment will be done using GCSE-style essay questions as well as recap tests using smaller GCSE questions</p>	<p>Psychology will develop students' abilities in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literacy: students will develop their skills in extended writing as well as learning how to express themselves precisely and succinctly to fit the needs of the GCSE specification • Numeracy: data and graph analysis will be an integral part of the course – student will learn how to draw conclusions from these different sources • The scientific method and conducting research: throughout the course we will focus on how research is done and evaluate it 	<p>There are many good TED talks that focus on the topics we cover</p> <p>The OCR GCSE specification and example exam papers can be found on their website – some of the topics also link to the old OCR specification, which has more exam papers</p> <p>New Scientist and podcasts such as Freakonomics and All in the Mind contain relevant content too</p>
<p>Gender</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the difference between biological sex and gender? • Different explanations of gender development: biological and social learning theories • We will explore cross cultural research into different gender norms and expectations around the world • Gender dysphoria and explanations for this condition • We will then apply this learning to some of the current controversies over gender in the world around us 	<p>Assessment will be done using GCSE-style essay questions as well as recap tests using smaller GCSE questions</p>	<p>Psychology will develop students' abilities in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literacy: students will develop their skills in extended writing as well as learning how to express themselves precisely and succinctly to fit the needs of the GCSE specification • Numeracy: data and graph analysis will be an integral part of the course – student will learn how to draw conclusions from these different sources • The scientific method and conducting research: throughout the course we will focus on how research is done and evaluate it 	<p>There are many good TED talks that focus on the topics we cover</p> <p>The OCR GCSE specification and example exam papers can be found on their website – some of the topics also link to the old OCR specification, which has more exam papers</p> <p>New Scientist and podcasts such as Freakonomics and All in the Mind contain relevant content too</p>



<p>Creating research</p>	<p>In this unit, students will have the chance to pick a topic to research then create, carry out and evaluate an in-depth piece of research in school. This will be the culmination of their learning and will combine all the research and theory skills they have developed throughout the course</p>	<p>Assessment in this area will be done on a more coursework-style scheme: the quality of the student's ideas as well as their evaluation of their own research will be taken into account as well as their application of psychological knowledge</p>	<p>Conducting their own research will enhance students' ability in science practicals as well their literacy and numeracy skills in writing up their research and analysing their findings</p>	
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