

Psychology Pre-Option map

The purpose of the KS3 Psychology curriculum at The Rodillian Academy is to provide an engaging and effective introduction to Psychology. Students learn the fundamentals of the subject and develop skills valued by Higher Education (HE) and employers, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research. It builds on skills developed in the sciences and humanities, and enables progression into a wide range of other subjects.

The Rodillian mission is to generate social mobility and improve the life chances of our children and young people through providing excellent educational experiences.

INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY – Term 1

- What do psychologists do?
- Theories, studies, approaches, methods, ethics (history of Psych?)
- Design an expt. into memory
- Psychology as a science
- Interpreting data
- Application to memory (eyewitness testimony)
- Lab experiments (hypotheses, variables, designs)
- Sampling
- Bar charts
- Data analysis (descriptive statistics)

BIOPSYCHOLOGY – Term 2

- The brain
 - Structure, localisation, lateralisation, neuroplasticity, etc.
- Neurons and neurotransmission
- Biorhythms, sleep, dreaming (theories/studies)
- Brain scanning techniques
- Experimental method
- Correlations
- Self report method

PSYCHOLOGICAL DISORDERS – Term 3

- Introduction – diagnosis, statistics, stigma, etc.
- Defining abnormality
- Disorders – e.g., schizophrenia, depression, MPD/DID
- Therapies
- Reliability
- Validity
- Ethics
- Social sensitivity
- Self-report methods

SOCIAL INFLUENCE – Term 1

- Obedience
- Conformity
- Pro/anti-social behaviour
- Altruism/bystander behaviour
- Experimental method
- Observational method
- Ethics
- Demand characteristics
- Validity
- Reliability

ANIMAL RESEARCH – Term 2

- Generalisation from animals to humans
- Animal communication studies
 - Washoe / Kanzi
- Animal behavioural studies
 - Harlow's attachment studies
 - Skinner's conditioning research
- Ethics associated with animal research
- Validity
- Ethics
- Observational method

CRIMINAL PSYCHOLOGY – Term 3

- Measuring crime
- Offender profiling
- Explanations for offending (biological/psychological)
- Dealing with offenders
- Validity
- Social sensitivity
- Self-report method

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Paper 1

CRIMINAL PSYCHOLOGY – June - September

Key concepts (e.g., different types of crime)

Theories / explanations / studies

- The Social Learning Theory
- Cooper and Mackie (1986): Study into video games and aggression in children.
- Eysenck’s Criminal Personality Theory
- Heaven (1996): Study into delinquency, extroversion, psychoticism and self-esteem.

Application: The changing nature of punishment

- Self reports, rating scales
- Bar charts
- Lab experiments (hypotheses, variables, designs)
- Demand characteristics

PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS – November - December

Key concepts (e.g., ways of defining mental health)

Theories / explanations / studies

- Biological Explanation of Schizophrenia
- Psychological Explanation of Schizophrenia
- Daniel, Weinberger, Jones et al. (1991): The effect of amphetamine on regional cerebral blood flow during cognitive activation in schizophrenia.
- Biological Explanation of Clinical Depression
- Psychological Explanation of Clinical Depression
- Tandoc et al. (2015): Study into Facebook use, envy, and depression among college students: Is Facebooking depressing?

Application: The development of treatments

- Sampling techniques
- Pie charts

MEMORY – February - March

Key concepts (e.g., types of forgetting)

Theories / explanations / studies

- The Multi-store Model of Memory
- Wilson, Kopelman and Kapur (2008): Prominent and persistent loss of past awareness in amnesia: delusion, impaired consciousness or coping strategy (the Clive Wearing study).
- The Theory of Reconstructive Memory
- Braun, Ellis and Loftus (2002): study into How Advertising Can Change Our Memories of the Past.

Application: Techniques used for recall

- Reliability
- Validity
- Ethics
- Lab experiments

REVISION – April / May

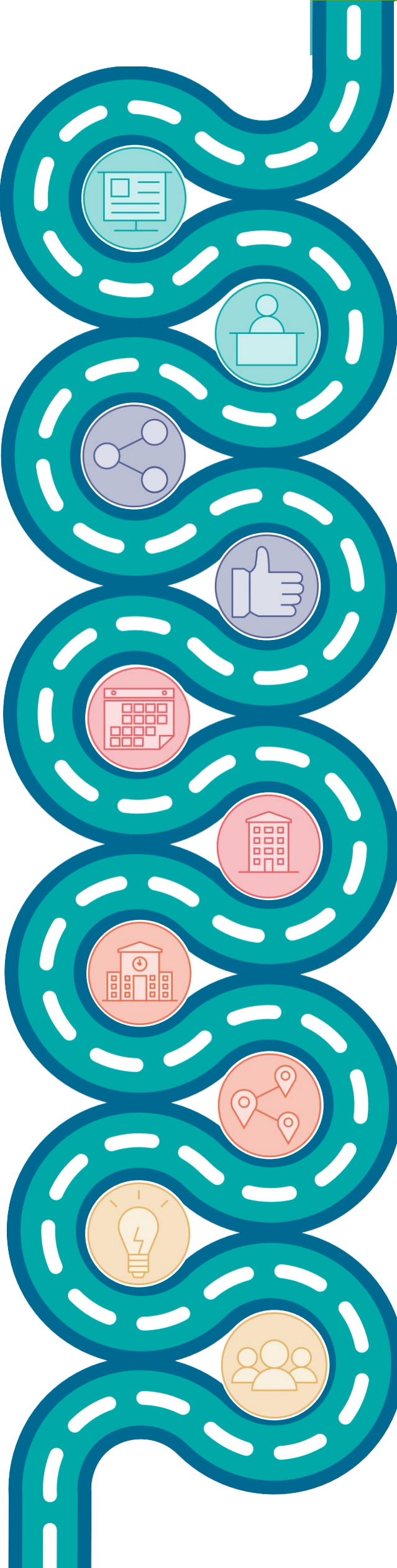
Exams

J203/01

Studies and applications in psychology 1

J203/02

Studies and applications in psychology 2



DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY – September - November

Key concepts (e.g., the development of brain structures and functions)

Theories / explanations / studies

- Piaget’s Theory of Cognitive Development
- Piaget (1952): Study into the conservation of number.
- The Role of Learning on Development –
- Dweck’s Mindset Theory
- Willingham’s Learning Theory
- Blackwell et al. (2007): study into fixed and growth mindsets.

Application: The changing role of education

- Questionnaires
- Correlations
- Scattergrams
- Ethical issues
- Natural experiments

RESEARCH METHODS – December

- Descriptive statistics (e.g., measures of central tendency, measures of dispersion, etc.)
- Types of data (e.g., quantitative, primary, etc.)
- Reliability
- Validity
- Sources of bias
- Exam practise

Paper 2

SOCIAL INFLUENCE – January - February

Key concepts (e.g., collective and crowd behaviour)

Theories / explanations / studies

- Situational Factors
- Bickman (1974): study into obedience and the social power of a uniform.
- Dispositional Factors
- NatCen (2011): study into the August riots in England with reference to anti-social collective behaviour and dispositional factors.

Application: Changing attitudes

- Pie charts
- Reliability
- Validity
- Sources of bias
- Interviews

SLEEP AND DREAMING – March - April

Key concepts (e.g., the functions, features and benefits of sleep)

Theories / explanations / studies

- The Freudian Theory of Dreaming
- Freud (1918): dream analysis study of ‘The Wolfman’.
- The Activation Synthesis Theory of Dreaming
- Williams et al. (1992): study into Bizarreness in Dreams and Fantasies: Implications for the Activation Synthesis Hypothesis.

Application: Development of treatments for insomnia

- Case studies
- Practical experience of self-report
- Sources of bias
- Types of data
- Descriptive statistics
- Observations

Psychology A Level map



The purpose of the KS5 Psychology curriculum at The Rodillian Academy is to provide an engaging and effective introduction to Psychology. Students learn the fundamentals of the subject and develop skills valued by Higher Education (HE) and employers, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research. It builds on skills developed in the sciences and humanities, and enables progression into a wide range of other subjects.

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PSYCHOPATHOLOGY (Paper 1) – October

- Defining abnormality
- Characteristics of phobias, depression and OCD
- The behavioural approach to explaining and treating phobias
- The cognitive approach to explaining and treating depression
- The biological approach to explaining and treating OCD
- [Animal research](#)
- [Correlations](#)
- [Experimental method](#)

BIOPSYCHOLOGY (Paper 2) – November

- The nervous system, neurons and synaptic transmission
- The endocrine system and the fight / flight response
- Localisation and lateralisation of the brain
- Plasticity and functional recovery of the brain
- Ways of studying the brain
- Biorhythms
- [Animal research](#)
- [Correlations](#)
- [Experimental method](#)
- [Case study method](#)

MEMORY (Paper 1) – February

- Models of memory
- Types of long-term memory
- Explanations for forgetting
- Factors affecting the accuracy of eyewitness testimony
- Improving the accuracy of eyewitness testimony
- [Experimental method](#)
- [Case study method](#)
- [Scientific processes](#)

RESEARCH METHODS (Paper 2 and synoptic) – May - Sept

- [Scientific processes](#) (e.g., [hypotheses](#), [controls](#), [peer review](#), [report writing](#), etc.)
- [Data analysis](#) (descriptive and inferential)

Year 13

ISSUES AND DEBATES (Paper 3 and synoptic) – September

- Gender and culture in psychology
- Free will and determinism
- The nature-nurture debate
- Holism and reductionism
- Idiographic and nomothetic approaches
- Ethical implications of research

FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY (Paper 3) – October

- Offender profiling
- Biological explanations of offending behaviour
- Psychological explanations of offending behaviour
- Dealing with offending behaviour
- [Validity](#)
- [Social sensitivity](#)
- [Self-report method](#)

Exams

7182/1
Introductory topics in Psychology

7182/2
Psychology in context

7182/3
Issues and options in psychology

Year 12

APPROACHES (Paper 2) – September

- Origins of Psychology
- Learning approaches
- The cognitive approach
- The biological approach
- The psychodynamic approach
- The humanist approach
- Comparison of approaches
- [Experimental method](#)
- [Case study method](#)
- [Animal research](#)

SOCIAL INFLUENCE (Paper 1) – December

- Conformity (inc. social roles)
- Obedience
- Resistance to social influence
- Social change and minority influence
- [Observational method](#)
- [Ethical issues](#)
- [Self-report method](#)
- [Descriptive statistics](#) (e.g., [measures of central tendency](#), [measures of dispersion](#), etc.)
- [Types of data](#) (e.g., [quantitative](#), [primary](#), etc.)
- [Reliability](#)
- [Validity](#)

ATTACHMENT (Paper 1) – April

- Caregiver-infant interactions in humans
- Animal studies of attachment
- Explanations of attachment
- Types of attachment and cultural variations
- Maternal deprivation and the effects of institutionalisation
- The influence of early attachment on childhood and adult relationships
- [Observational method](#)
- [Animal research](#)

COGNITION AND DEVELOPMENT (Paper 3) – December

- Piaget's theory of cognitive development
- Vygotsky's theory of cognitive development
- Baillargeon's explanation of early infant abilities
- The development of social cognition
- [Experimental method](#)

SCHIZOPHRENIA (Paper 3) – February

- Classification of schizophrenia
- Reliability and validity in diagnosis and classification of schizophrenia
- Biological explanations for schizophrenia
- Psychological explanations for schizophrenia
- Drug therapy
- Cognitive behaviour therapy, family therapy and token economies
- The importance of an interactionist approach
- [Social sensitivity](#)
- [Ethical issues](#)

REVISION – April / May