

Psychology

Year 12

Approaches in Psychology – What are the origins of Psychology, when did thinking about human behaviour begin and how has it developed throughout history? How do different psychologists (e.g., behavioural psychologists, biological psychologists etc.) attempt to explain human behaviour? How can we compare the different approaches and what are their strengths and limitations?

Research Methods – How do psychologists carry out psychological research and what are the different research methods used? What are the different types of experimental and non-experimental methods? How do we ensure psychological research is reliable, valid, and ethical? How do we analyse our research findings and how can we use statistical testing to help us draw conclusions?

Memory – How do different models of memory attempt to explain how human memory works? Can we explain why humans forget? Why do eyewitness testimonies show that human memory is so unreliable and what factors affect the accuracy of eyewitness testimony?

Social Influence – How does human behaviour change within a social context? Why do we conform and obey orders and what does psychological research tell us about conformity and obedience? How can we explain why some people resist the influence of others? How do the beliefs of minority groups end up affecting the beliefs of many? How do social influence processes create changes in society?

Attachment – What do we mean by an 'attachment' between an infant and a caregiver? Are there different types of attachment? How can we explain why attachments are important and how they develop? What happens when attachments are broken or aren't formed at all? How do attachment relationships differ cross-culturally? Do childhood attachments affect adult relationships?

Psychopathology – What is 'abnormal' behaviour and how can it be defined? What are the emotional, behavioural, and cognitive characteristics of phobias, obsessive compulsive disorder and depression? How are these mental disorders diagnosed? How can we explain why these mental disorders develop? What are the different ways of treating these mental disorders and are these treatments effective?

Biopsychology – How does the human nervous system affect human behaviour? How do neurotransmitters and hormones influence how we act? How is the human brain structured and do different areas of the brain have specialised functions? How do different brain scanning techniques help us to understand human behaviour? How is human behaviour influenced by biological rhythms (e.g. sleep-wake cycle) and how are these rhythms maintained?

Group Research Project – How can our knowledge of psychological research methods be applied to our own research study? Can we work effectively in a team to plan and carry out our own research study with real participants? Can we effectively collect and analyse data? Can we present our methods and findings in the format of a psychological lab report?

Year 13

Issues and Debates – Why are issues of gender bias and cultural bias demonstrated in many psychological research studies? Is human behaviour mainly influenced by nature or nurture? Is a reductionist or holistic explanation of human behaviour the most appropriate and why? Do humans have free will or is our behaviour pre-determined? How can we link our knowledge of Year 1 topics to these issues and debates?

Gender – What is the difference between sex and gender? How do our genetics and hormones affect our sex and gender? How do different psychologists explain how children develop their understanding of gender? How does the media and culture influence children's' understanding of gender and their gender-related behaviour? What is gender dysphoria and how can it be explained?

Schizophrenia – What are the symptoms of schizophrenia and how is it diagnosed? Why are there problems with the diagnosis of schizophrenia? How can the onset of schizophrenia be explained using both biological and environmental theories? What are the different treatment options for schizophrenia – are they appropriate and effective?

Aggression – How can biological factors (e.g., the brain, hormones and genetics) be used to explain aggressive behaviour? How can animal aggression and evolution help us to understand human aggression? How can aggression be explained in a social context? Why does increased aggression occur in prisons and what are the different reasons for this? How does the media (including video games) influence aggressive behaviour?

Preparing for the future:

Further education courses:

- Psychology (e.g. Psychology, Psychology with Criminology, Psychology in education etc)
- Neuroscience
- Clinical Psychology
- Sports and Exercise Psychology
- Criminology
- Forensics

Jobs:

- Clinical Psychologist/counselling/therapist
- Business Psychologist
- Educational Psychologist
- Teaching (e.g. primary, secondary, FE, SEND)
- Sports Psychologist
- Economic Psychologist
- Forensic Psychologist
- Health Psychologist
- Occupational Psychologist
- Neuroscientist
- Research Psychologist