

# HIGHFIELDS SCHOOL

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW 2023-2024



www.hsvv.co.uk

**SUBJECT: A LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY**

**EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA**

AUTUMN TERM - YEAR 12	SPRING TERM – YEAR 12	SUMMER TERM - YEAR 12
<p><b>Research Methods</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experimental method</li> <li>• Observational techniques</li> <li>• Self-report techniques</li> <li>• Correlational analysis</li> <li>• Content analysis</li> <li>• Case studies</li> <li>• Ethics, including the role of the British Psychological Society's code of ethics</li> </ul> <p><b>Developmental Psychology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schaffer - Stages of attachment</li> <li>• Animal studies of attachment: Lorenz and Harlow</li> <li>• Bowlby - Explanations of attachment</li> <li>• Ainsworth - 'Strange Situation'</li> <li>• Van Ijzendoorn - Cultural variations in attachment, including</li> <li>• Early attachment and adult relationships</li> </ul> <p><b>Cognitive Psychology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSM - short-term memory</li> <li>• Long-term memory</li> <li>• WMM</li> <li>• Forgetting</li> <li>• The accuracy of eyewitness testimony</li> <li>• The cognitive interview</li> </ul>	<p><b>Social Psychology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internalisation, identification and compliance ISI NSI</li> <li>• Asch - conformity</li> <li>• Zimbardo - Conformity to social roles</li> <li>• Milgram - Obedience</li> <li>• Adorno - The Authoritarian Personality</li> <li>• Resistance to social influence</li> <li>• Minority influence</li> </ul> <p><b>Psychopathology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Definitions of abnormality - DSN FFA SI DIMH</li> <li>• Characteristics of phobias, depression and OCD</li> <li>• The behavioural approach to explaining and treating phobias</li> <li>• The cognitive approach to explaining and treating depression</li> <li>• The biological approach to explaining and treating OCD</li> </ul> <p><b>Research Methods</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The role of peer review in the scientific process</li> <li>• Reliability and validity</li> <li>• Features of science</li> <li>• Descriptive statistics</li> <li>• Inferential testing</li> <li>• Sign test</li> <li>• Type I and Type II errors</li> <li>• Spearman's rho, Pearson's r, Wilcoxon, Mann-Whitney, related t-test, unrelated t-test and Chi-Squared test</li> </ul>	<p><b>Biopsychology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The divisions of the nervous system</li> <li>• The structure and function of sensory, relay and motor neurons</li> <li>• The process of synaptic transmission</li> <li>• The endocrine system</li> <li>• Adrenaline</li> <li>• Localisation of function in the brain</li> <li>• hemispheric lateralisation</li> <li>• Broca's and Wernicke's areas</li> <li>• Neuroplasticity</li> <li>• Scanning techniques fMRI EEGs ERPs</li> <li>• Circadian, infradian and ultradian rhythms</li> <li>• Endogenous pacemakers and exogenous zeitgebers</li> </ul> <p><b>Approaches to Psychology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Origins of psychology: Wundt</li> <li>• Learning approaches: the behaviourist approach. Pavlov, Skinner and Bandura</li> <li>• The cognitive approach: the study of internal mental processes</li> <li>• The biological approach: Genes, biological structures and neurochemistry</li> <li>• The psychodynamic approach: Freudian Psychology</li> <li>• Humanistic psychology: Maslow</li> <li>• Comparison of approaches</li> </ul>
<p><b>ASSESSMENT</b> Each module assessed with short answer questions, and end of unit test and essays.</p>	<p><b>ASSESSMENT</b> Each module assessed with short answer questions, and end of unit test and essays.</p>	<p><b>ASSESSMENT</b> Each module assessed with short answer questions, and end of unit test and essays.</p>

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<p><b>Relationships</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The evolutionary explanations for partner preferences</li> <li>• Sexual selection and human reproductive behaviour</li> <li>• Factors affecting attraction in romantic relationships</li> <li>• Social exchange theory</li> <li>• Equity theory</li> <li>• Rusbult's investment model</li> <li>• Duck's model of relationship breakdown</li> <li>• Virtual relationships in social media</li> <li>• Parasocial relationships</li> </ul> <p><b>Aggression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neural and hormonal mechanisms in aggression</li> <li>• The ethological explanation of aggression</li> <li>• Social Psych explanations of Aggression</li> <li>• Institutional aggression</li> <li>• Media influences on aggression</li> </ul> <p><b>Eating Behaviour</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explanations for food preferences</li> <li>• Neural and hormonal mechanisms in eating</li> <li>• Biological explanations for anorexia nervosa</li> <li>• Psychological explanations for anorexia nervosa</li> <li>• Biological explanations for obesity</li> <li>• Psychological explanations for obesity</li> <li>• Explanations for the success and failure of dieting</li> </ul>	<p><b>Issues debates and approaches in Psychology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gender and culture in psychology</li> <li>• Free will and determinism</li> <li>• The nature-nurture debate</li> <li>• Holism and reductionism</li> <li>• Idiographic and nomothetic approaches</li> <li>• Ethical implications of research studies and theory, including reference to social sensitivity</li> </ul> <p><b>Research Methods - revision</b></p> <p>Research methods 12 mark Question preparation</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Summer Examinations</b></p>
<p><b>ASSESSMENT</b></p> <p>Each module assessed with short answer questions, and end of unit test and essays.</p>	<p><b>ASSESSMENT</b></p> <p>Each module assessed with short answer questions, and end of unit test and essays.</p>	