

EASTBURY SUBJECT CURRICULUM

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| Subject | Psychology AS LEVEL Year 12 |
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| Overview | <p>Students would have never encountered this topic before if they are coming from Eastbury Comprehensive School. This will be a brand new area of study for them. Due to this fact the beginning of the course will involve skills based training on how to develop better evaluation and thinking skills. Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and behaviour. Psychology is a broad subject with many theories on why humans behave in certain ways. In this course you will learn about the different psychological approaches used to explain many aspects of human behaviour and develop the ability to critically analyse these theories and the research that is used to support or refute them. Within the course you will study key areas in the Psychology field from developmental Psychology to biological Psychology to Psychopathology of schizophrenia or depression.</p> |
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| Term by term | |
| Autumn | <p>UNIT 1: Research Methods; Cognitive and Developmental Psychology This unit covers three important topic areas in Psychology. Students will learn about how psychology is researched, they will be able to describe aspects of psychology as a science and compare different styles of research. Student will study cognitive psychology in that they will look at Memory, they will discover different theories of memory structure and they will discuss how memory affects us in everyday life, e.g. Eye witness testimony. The last fundamental topic in this unit is Developmental psychology. Under this topic students will evaluate the nature of attachment formation. They will discuss how and why we form attachments at infancy. They will also look at how theories of attachment have influenced day care practises and how we look after children today. Students will be expected to generate an understanding and evaluate how research is carried out in both of these topics. ASSESSMENT : 1hour 30mins External Examination</p> |
| Spring | <p>UNIT 2: Biological, Social Psychology and Individual Differences In this unit students build on their knowledge of research methods and apply it to all three topics covered. The first area of study is biological psychology, here the students will learn about Stress and its links to the human body both chemically and physically. They will also discuss stress in different environments and physiological and psychological treatments available for stress related illness. The second area of study is Individual differences also described as psychopathology. Here students will look at Abnormality, issues with normality and mental disorders; they will discuss diagnosis and treatments available and evaluate them. The third area is Social psychology. The topic studied here is social influence and will involve students understanding why people conform to others and how and why we obey, students will use different theories to explain how dictators manage to influence others and how minorities can influence society. ASSESSMENT : 1hour 30mins External Examination</p> |
| Summer | <p>UNIT 4: Student Experiment During this part of the term students will embark on a research project of their own choice. They will have to pick a topic area and carry out an ethical experiment on each other. Students will design their own method, collect data,</p> |

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| | analyse it and come to a conclusion. ASSESSMENT: Internally Assessed. |
| Homework | Four pieces of homework is given every week and students are expected to spend 1 hour on each piece. Homework's will involve the following: 1 hour independent reading task with evidence notes ;1 hour mind mapping task ;1 hour essay question;1 hour application exam question. All tasks will be graded A-E Students are also expected to do wider personal reading around the subject. Homework will be on www.showmyhomework.com . |
| Additional information | All students will be provided with supplementary resource booklets for each topic. These include information and extra activities. Students can work through these and have them marked for extra support. All students will need to put down a refundable* deposit of £10.50 on parent pay; this will give them a textbook and revision guide. |
| Useful resources | Here are some helpful resources including course information www.aqa.org.uk –Search for Psychology AS Level Specification and access past papers and mark schemes www.bps.org.uk –British Psychological society http://psychology4a.com/aqa_as_psychology.htm -Helpful factsheets |