



Psychology Curriculum Overview - Year 12

	Unit	Details
Autumn One	Approaches Biopsychology	Learning approaches: the behaviourist approach, social learning theory. The cognitive approach. The biological approach: The psychodynamic approach. Humanistic psychology. Comparison between approaches. The divisions of the nervous system. The structure and function of sensory, relay and motor neurons. The process of synaptic transmission, including reference to neurotransmitters, excitation and inhibition. The function of the endocrine system: glands and hormones. The fight or flight response including the role of adrenaline.
Autumn Two	Research methods	Experimental Methods: types of experiment and experimental design. Non-experimental methods: Observations, Surveys, Interviews, Case Studies, Correlations. Aims, Hypotheses, Validity, Reliability, Demand Characteristics, extraneous and confounding variables, ethical issues, sampling methods, Quantitative and qualitative data.
Spring One	Memory	The multi-store model of memory. Types of long-term memory: episodic, semantic, procedural. The working memory model Explanations for forgetting: proactive and retroactive interference and retrieval failure due to absence of cues. Factors affecting the accuracy of eyewitness testimony: misleading information, including leading questions and post-event discussion; anxiety. Improving the accuracy of eyewitness testimony.
Spring Two	Attachment	Caregiver-infant interactions in humans. Animal studies of attachment: Lorenz and Harlow. Explanations of attachment: learning theory and Bowlby's monotropic theory. Ainsworth's 'Strange Situation'. Bowlby's theory of maternal deprivation. Romanian orphan studies: effects of institutionalisation. The influence of early attachment on childhood and adult relationships.
Summer One	Psychopathology	Definitions of abnormality. The behavioural, emotional and cognitive characteristics of phobias, depression and obsessive compulsive disorder (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.
Summer Two	Social Influence	Types of conformity. Explanations for conformity: informational social influence and normative social influence. Conformity to social roles as investigated by Zimbardo. Explanations for obedience: Dispositional explanation for obedience: the Authoritarian Personality. Explanations of resistance to social influence, Minority influence. The role of social influence processes in social change.