



## Psychology Curriculum Overview - Year 13

		Unit	Details
Autumn One	<b>Biopsychology Schizophrenia</b>	<p>Localisation function - areas involved in vision, memory, language and movement.</p> <p>Lateralisation of function- specialisms of the two hemispheres.</p> <p>Methods of investigating the brain - scans, EEG and post mortems.</p> <p>Plasticity - processes involved in learning and changes in brain structure.</p> <p>Functional recovery - how the brain repairs itself after trauma.</p> <p>Issues in diagnosing SZ.</p> <p>Bio and psych explanations of SZ, treatments of SZ including drugs and CBT.</p> <p>Interactionist explanations of SZ.</p>	
Autumn Two	<b>Research Methods</b>	<p>Probability and significance: use of statistical tables and critical values in interpretation of significance; Type I and Type II errors.</p> <p>Factors affecting the choice of statistical test, including level of measurement and experimental design. When to use the following tests: Spearman's rho, Pearson's r, Wilcoxon, Mann-Whitney, related t-test, unrelated t-test and Chi-Squared test.</p>	
Spring One	<b>Cognitive Development Addiction</b>	<p>Piaget's theory of cognitive development. Vygotsky's theory of cognitive development, including the zone of proximal development and scaffolding. Baillargeon's explanation of early infant abilities. The development of social cognition: Selman's levels of perspective-taking; theory of mind, including theory of mind as an explanation for autism; the Sally-Anne study. The role of the mirror neuron system in social cognition. Describing addiction. Risk factors in the development of addiction, including genetic vulnerability, stress, personality, family influences and peers. Explanations for nicotine addiction: Explanations for gambling addiction. Reducing addiction. The application of the following theories of behaviour change to addictive behaviour.</p>	
Spring Two	<b>Issues and Debates</b>	<p>Gender and culture in psychology – universality and bias. Gender bias including androcentrism and alpha and beta bias; cultural bias, including ethnocentrism and cultural relativism. Free will and determinism: hard determinism and soft determinism; biological, environmental and psychic determinism. The scientific emphasis on causal explanations. The nature-nurture debate: the relative importance of heredity and environment in determining behaviour; the interactionist approach. Holism and reductionism: levels of explanation in psychology. Biological reductionism and environmental (stimulus-response) reductionism. Idiographic and nomothetic approaches to psychological investigation. Ethical implications of research studies and theory, including reference to social sensitivity.</p>	