Cornwallis Academy
Ambitions for All

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SUCCESSFUL | MOTIVATED | INSPIRED | LEARNING | EXCITED & ENGAGED

Year 13 Psychology

BioPsychology

Learning Objectives

The Biopsychology unit focuses on understanding the nervous and endocrine systems, brain structure and functions, localisation of brain areas, hemispheric lateralisation, split-brain research, brain plasticity, recovery after brain injury, and methods of studying the brain.

What previous knowledge is required?

Good understanding of science at GCSE, in particular Biology.

How will this term's content help with future learning?

Structure of the brain is discussed throughout the course and links to other areas including Clinical psychology and mental health, aggression, schizophrenia and gender.

National Curriculum / Specification

Paper 2, Unit 2

Approaches

Learning Objectives

This unit focuses on understanding the main psychological perspectives, including the origins and assumptions of the behaviourist, cognitive, biological, psychodynamic, humanistic and social learning approaches, how each approach explains human behaviour, key concepts and research studies linked to each perspective, the strengths and limitations of each approach, and how approaches can be applied to real-life behaviour and psychological issues.

What previous knowledge is required?

No previous knowledge required

How will this term's content help with future learning?

This unit is integral to the entire course.

National Curriculum / Specification

Paper 2, Unit 1

Issues and debates

Learning Objectives

This unit focuses on understanding key debates in psychology including nature vs nurture, free will vs determinism, reductionism vs holism, idiographic vs nomothetic approaches, cultural bias, ethical implications, socially sensitive research, and gender and cultural issues in psychological research, as well as evaluating how these issues influence psychological theories, studies and applications.

What previous knowledge is required?

No previous knowledge required

How will this term's content help with future learning?

This knowledge is used in all 'Discussion' essay questions.

National Curriculum / Specification

Paper 3, Unit 1

Gender

Learning Objectives

This unit focuses on understanding biological, cognitive and social learning explanations of gender development, including sex and gender differences, gender identity formation, the role of chromosomes, hormones and brain differences, cognitive development of gender, gender schemas, social learning theory and the influence of reinforcement and modelling, as well as evaluating research evidence, cultural and ethical issues, and the strengths and limitations of explanations of gender.

What previous knowledge is required?

No previous knowledge required

How will this term's content help with future learning?

Can be applied to other areas such as Approaches.

National Curriculum / Specification

Paper 3, Unit 2

Schizophrenia

Learning Objectives

This unit focuses on understanding the classification and diagnosis of schizophrenia, including positive and negative symptoms, biological explanations such as genetic and neural factors, psychological explanations including family dysfunction and cognitive explanations, as well as drug therapies and psychological therapies used to treat schizophrenia, and evaluating research evidence, effectiveness of treatments, and ethical and cultural issues in diagnosis and treatment.

What previous knowledge is required?

Knowledge of genetic factors affecting mental illness from Clinical psychology unit

How will this term's content help with future learning?

Can be used alongside Year12 clinical psychology knowledge

National Curriculum / Specification

Paper 3, Unit 3

Aggression

Learning Objectives

This unit focuses on understanding biological explanations such as neural and hormonal mechanisms, including the role of the limbic system, serotonin, testosterone and genetic factors, evolutionary explanations such as adaptive value and mate competition, as well as social psychological explanations including social learning theory and the influence of media, institutional aggression and deindividuation, alongside evaluating research evidence, real-world applications, and strengths and limitations of each explanation.

What previous knowledge is required?

No previous knowledge required

How will this term's content help with future learning?

Develops A03 skills which are key for both Year12 & 13

National Curriculum / Specification

Paper 3, Unit 4

Research methods

Learning Objectives

This unit focuses on understanding how psychological research is designed, conducted and evaluated, including experimental methods such as laboratory, field and natural experiments, types of variables and experimental design, sampling techniques, observational methods, self-report methods such as questionnaires and interviews, correlations, case studies and content analysis, as well as issues of reliability, validity, ethics and scientific processes, alongside appropriate data analysis including measures of central tendency and dispersion, graphical presentation of data, and the interpretation and evaluation of research findings.

What previous knowledge is required?

Year 12 knowledge

How will this term's content help with future learning?

This unit is the most important across the A level as it is covered on all papers.

National Curriculum / Specification
Paper 2, Unit 3