

	Half term 1	Half term 2	Half term 3	Half term 4	Half term 5	Half term 6
	Issues and options in Psychology					
Content title	Relationships	Schizophrenia	Biopsychology	Aggression	Research methods	Issues and debates
Purpose of the scheme	To explore why we form romantic relationships, how we develop them and, when they are unsuccessful, why relationships breakdown. The scheme also explores what healthy and unhealthy relationships look like.	To explore the causes of schizophrenia, including the influences of genes and social factors. To understand how schizophrenia is diagnosed and the treatments available. To evaluate how attitudes to mental illness have changed over time.	To explore how biological factors and process influence our behaviour as humans, considering why research into this approach has become stronger over time. To explore research into the human brain and its ability to heal. To understand how internal and external factors help us to function as humans.	To explore factors that influence aggressive behaviours in humans, considering whether aggressive behaviour is evolutionary, innate or influenced by society.	To understand the scientific methods which form the basis of all psychological research, exploring the strengths and weaknesses of different methods and considering ethical issues which may arise.	To explore pivotal debates at the heart of all psychological research, which form the basis of key evaluative points when analysing studies and theories.
Pre-read (suggested)	How to Be Sure That You'll Make the Right Relationship Decisions Psychology Today United Kingdom A Breakup Doesn't Have to Leave You Broken Psychology Today United Kingdom	What is schizophrenia? - Mind What's it like to live with #schizophrenia? - YouTube	What Is Biopsychology? Study of the Brain and Behavior (verywellmind.com) 'I only have half a brain' - BBC Stories - YouTube	What Is Aggression? (verywellmind.com)	Introduction to child psychology - OpenLearn - Open University	Ethical dilemma: Whose life is more valuable? - Rebecca L. Walker - YouTube
Key knowledge and skills	<p>The evolutionary explanations for partner preferences, including the relationship between sexual selection and human reproductive behaviour.</p> <p>Factors affecting attraction in romantic relationships: self-disclosure; physical attractiveness, including the matching hypothesis and filter theory.</p> <p>Theories of romantic relationships: social exchange theory, equity theory and Rusbult's investment model.</p> <p>Duck's phase model of relationship breakdown.</p> <p>Virtual relationships in social media, including the effects of absence of gating on the</p>	<p>Classification of schizophrenia. Positive symptoms of schizophrenia, including hallucinations and delusions.</p> <p>Negative symptoms of schizophrenia, including speech poverty and avolition.</p> <p>Reliability and validity in diagnosis and classification of schizophrenia.</p> <p>Biological explanations for schizophrenia and psychological explanations for schizophrenia.</p> <p>Drug therapy: typical and atypical antipsychotics.</p> <p>Cognitive behaviour therapy and family therapy as used in the treatment of schizophrenia.</p>	<p>The divisions of the nervous system: central and peripheral (somatic and autonomic). The structure and function of sensory, relay and motor neurons. The process of synaptic transmission, including reference to neurotransmitters, excitation and inhibition.</p> <p>The function of the endocrine system: glands and hormones. The fight or flight response including the role of adrenaline. Localisation of function in the brain and hemispheric lateralisation: split brain research. Plasticity and functional recovery of the brain after trauma.</p> <p>Ways of studying the brain: scanning techniques. Biological rhythms: circadian, infradian and ultradian and the difference between these</p>	<p>Neural and hormonal mechanisms in aggression. Genetic factors in aggression, including the MAOA gene.</p> <p>The ethological explanation of aggression.</p> <p>Evolutionary explanations of human aggression. Social psychological explanations of human aggression.</p> <p>Institutional aggression in the context of prisons.</p> <p>Media influences on aggression, including the effects of computer games.</p> <p>The role of desensitisation, disinhibition and cognitive priming.</p>	<p>Experimental method. Types of experiment, laboratory and field experiments; natural and quasi-experiments.</p> <p>Observational techniques. Types of observation: naturalistic and controlled observation; covert and overt observation; participant and non-participant observation. Self-report techniques. Questionnaires; interviews, structured and unstructured. Correlations. Analysis of the relationship between co-variables. The difference between correlations and experiments.</p>	<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.</p> <p>Free will and determinism: hard determinism and soft determinism; biological, environmental and psychic determinism. The scientific emphasis on causal explanations.</p> <p>The nature-nurture debate. Holism and reductionism: levels of explanation in Psychology. Biological reductionism and environmental (stimulus-response) reductionism. Idiographic and nomothetic approaches to psychological investigation.</p>

	nature of virtual relationships. Parasocial relationships: levels of parasocial relationships, the absorption addiction model and the attachment theory explanation.	Token economies as used in the management of schizophrenia. The importance of an interactionist approach in explaining and treating schizophrenia.	rhythms. The effect of endogenous pacemakers and exogenous zeitgebers on the sleep/wake cycle.			Ethical implications of research studies and theory.
Key words / vocabulary	Gating Parasocial relationships AQA Subject specific vocabulary	Diathesis-stress model AQA Subject specific vocabulary	Endogenous pacemakers Exogenous zeitgebers Hemispheric lateralisation Synaptic transmission AQA Subject specific vocabulary	Frustration-aggression hypothesis AQA Subject specific vocabulary	Correlation Co-variables Meta-analysis AQA Subject specific vocabulary	Androcentrism Idiographic Nomothetic AQA Subject specific vocabulary
Exam board	AQA Psychology AS and A-level Psychology					
End point	Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology	Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology	Paper 2 : Psychology in Context	Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology	Paper 2 : Psychology in Context	Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology
Assessment method	Exam Mock exams In lesson practice questions					
Wider links	Delusions of Gender: the real science behind sex differences Cordelia Fine	Cognitive Behavioural Therapy for Dummies Rob Willson Dopamine Nation by Dr Anna Lembke	The Rough Guide to the Brain Barry Gibb	Human Kind: A Hopeful History by Rutger Bregman	Elephants on Acid: And Other Bizarre Experiments Alex Boese	The Rough Guide to Psychology Christian Jarrett The Private Life of the Brain Susan Greenfield
Career links	Clinical psychologist. Counselling psychologist. Education mental health practitioner. Educational psychologist. Forensic psychologist. Further education teacher. Health psychologist. High intensity therapist. What can I do with a psychology degree? Prospects.ac.uk	Clinical psychologist. Counselling psychologist. Education mental health practitioner. Educational psychologist. Forensic psychologist. Further education teacher. Health psychologist. High intensity therapist. What can I do with a psychology degree? Prospects.ac.uk	Clinical psychologist. Counselling psychologist. Education mental health practitioner. Educational psychologist. Forensic psychologist. Further education teacher. Health psychologist. High intensity therapist. What can I do with a psychology degree? Prospects.ac.uk	Clinical psychologist. Counselling psychologist. Education mental health practitioner. Educational psychologist. Forensic psychologist. Further education teacher. Health psychologist. High intensity therapist. What can I do with a psychology degree? Prospects.ac.uk	Clinical psychologist. Counselling psychologist. Education mental health practitioner. Educational psychologist. Forensic psychologist. Further education teacher. Health psychologist. High intensity therapist. What can I do with a psychology degree? Prospects.ac.uk	Clinical psychologist. Counselling psychologist. Education mental health practitioner. Educational psychologist. Forensic psychologist. Further education teacher. Health psychologist. High intensity therapist. What can I do with a psychology degree? Prospects.ac.uk