

Work Covered Psychology AS

AUTUMN 1ST HALF

Module 1 – Cognitive Psychology: the nature of memory, encompassing encoding, capacity and duration. The structure of memory as described by the multi-store model and the working memory model. Strengths and weaknesses of these models.

Module 1 – Research Methods: the nature of scientific investigation. The nature and use of experimental methods (including laboratory, field and natural experiments). Identifying independent, dependent and extraneous variables.

Module 2 – Social Psychology: Types of conformity including informational and normative social influence. How people resist conformity. The nature of obedience and research into this behaviour. Explanations of why people obey.

AUTUMN 2ND HALF

Module 1 – Cognitive Psychology: Factors affecting eyewitness testimony. Research into the effect of misleading information on eyewitness testimony. The nature and use of Cognitive Interviews. Strategies for memory improvement

Module 1 – Research Methods: The nature and use of non-experimental methods (including observations, case studies, correlational analyses, interviews and questionnaires). Aspects of research design such as writing aims and hypotheses, the selection of participants, operationalisation of variables. The design of experiments, observations, questionnaires and interviews.

Module 2 – Social Psychology: How people resist obedience. Individual differences and independent behaviour. The implications of social influence research.

Module 2 – Individual Differences: Definitions of abnormality and the limitations of these definitions. Biological, Psychodynamic, Cognitive and Behavioural models of abnormality.

SPRING 1ST HALF

Module 1 – Developmental Psychology: Explanations of attachment and types of attachment. Cultural variations in attachment. The effects of the disruptions of attachments (maternal deprivation) and privation. The effects of institutionalisation on child development.

Module 1 – Research Methods: Ethical considerations in Psychological research. The concepts of validity and reliability. A consideration of the effects of demand characteristics, and how they might be avoided alongside other investigator effects.

Module 2 – Individual Differences: Treatment of Psychological disorders. Consideration of drug therapies, ECT, Psychoanalysis, Systematic desensitisation and CBT.

Module 2 – Biological Psychology: Defining stress. The physical effects of stress on the body via the pituitary- adrenal system and the sympatho-medullary pathway. Stress related illness and immune system.

SPRING 2ND HALF

Module 1 – Developmental Psychology: The effects of day care on attachment. The implications of attachment research for day care and childcare practices.

Module 1 – Research Methods: Data analysis and presentation including graphs, scattergrams, tables, measures of central tendency, measures of dispersion and correlations. The presentation of qualitative data and content analyses.

Module 2 – Biological Psychology: The relationship between stress and life changes / daily hassles. Workplace stress. The relationship between personality and stress. Emotion focused vs problem focused approaches to stress management. The use of CBT to manage stress. The use of drug therapy to manage stress.

Work Covered Psychology A2

Term	Comparative	Topics	Social / developmental	Topics
Autumn 1 st Half	Human reproductive behaviour	Relationship between sexual selection and human reproductive behaviour Evolutionary explanations for parental investment (including parent-offspring conflict)	Pro and anti social behaviour	Theories of aggression Bystander behaviour Cultural differences in Prosocial Behaviour

				Media influences on pro and anti social behaviour
COURSEWORK ASSESSMENT				
Autumn 2nd Half	Evolutionary explanations of mental disorders Evolutionary explanations of intelligence	Evolutionary explanations of depression Evolutionary explanations of anxiety disorders Evolutionary explanations of the development of intelligence Relationship between brain size and intelligence	Social and personality development	Personality development (psychodynamic and social learning) Gender development Identity formation Relationships with parents and peers
Spring 1st Half	Module 4 Revision		Module 4 Revision	
MODULE 4 EXAMINATION JANUARY				
Spring 1st Half	Individual Differences	Topics	Perspectives	Topics
	Treating Psychological disorders	Biological therapies – drugs	Issues in Psychology	Gender Bias in theories and studies

Spring 2nd half		Biological therapies – ECT and Psychosurgery Behavioural therapies – related to classical and operant conditioning Psychodynamic therapies <i>or</i> CBT		Cultural Bias in theories and studies Ethical issues with human Ps and non-human animals
Summer 1st Half	Approaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision of approaches to Psychology (psychodynamic, behavioural, social learning, biological, evolutionary). • Revision of Research Methods related to these approaches. • Application of these approaches to exam style questions. 		