

Sociology Curriculum Plan – Hall Park Academy

At Hall Park we follow the AQA A level Psychology specification. The Psychology curriculum offers students a broad understanding of Psychological theory and methods, the understanding of which underpins students understanding of a range of topics.

- In Y12 students cover Approaches in Psychology, which offers an understanding of Psychology as a discipline. The Research Methods covered in Y12 allow students to understand the role of the research process in theory construction and begin to be able to analyse their learning based on the research methods used to arrive at the knowledge. The topics of Social Influence, Memory, Attachment, Psychopathology and an introduction to Biopsychology allow students to gain a deeper understanding of how Psychological research can inform our understanding of human thought and behavior in those discipline areas.
- The topics covered in Y13 further develop their research methods knowledge, building on prior knowledge with an emphasis on application. Students gain a deeper exploration of Relationships, Forensic Psychology and Schizophrenia. Towards the end of Year 13 students consolidate and extend their Psychological knowledge through the study of core Issues and Debates within Psychology.

Psychology broadens students' understanding of human thinking and behavior, which will inform their understanding of the world as they progress and move forward, into the workplace or higher education. The order of teaching is based on being able to revisit synoptic topics. Approaches is key to every topic on the specification, covering this early in the course allows students to conceptualize the approaches as they move through the other topics. Research methods is key to becoming a successful Psychology student as it allows students to think critically about the evidence that is presented throughout the course. Research methods is taught in blocks of lessons allowing students to grasp the core concepts, the sequence of these is planned so that the methods they have previously learned about or are currently learning feature heavily in topics that follow. For example, experimental methods feature heavily in the Social Influence topic and observational methods feature heavily in the attachment topic. Teaching Issues and debates at the end of the course allows students to revisit every topic and to apply their knowledge to some of the wider debates within the Psychology world. By the end of the course students will have a grasp on the research process as well as the ability to critically analyse the knowledge that Psychology presents though their understanding gained throughout the course.

Year	TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3
Year 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to Psychology and Core Approaches• Memory• Experimental Research Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attachment• Social Influence• Observational research methods• Self-report research methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Psychopathology• Biopsychology• Data Handling
Year 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relationships• Biopsychology• Analysis Research methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Forensic Psychology• Schizophrenia• Designing Research methods• Reporting Research methods• 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Issue and Debates• EXTERNAL ASSESSMENTS