NORTH BROMSGROVE HIGH SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM
Abeunt in Studius Mores
Studies Determine Character

Key Stage 5 Curriculum Overview

Psychology

Staff List 2026-27

Name	Job Role	Contact Email
Mr Rogers	Head of Social Sciences	jro@northbrosmgrove.worcs.sch.uk
Ms Rushton	Teacher of Psychology and Criminology	Sru@northbromsgrove.worcs.sch.uk

Curriculum Intent

Psychology A-level adds a new dimension to topics studied at GCSE Psychology and also explores topics new to all students. The course uses the scientific method of careful research, experimentation and statistical analysis and intends students to learn to be numerate, to use logical reasoning and to express themselves clearly and concisely in writing.

Exam Board and Link to Specification
We follow the AQA exam board.

Here is the link to follow the specification:
AQA | Psychology | A-Level | A-level Psychology

Curriculum Implementation

	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Year 12	**Introduction to subject/structure** **Approaches** **Memory** **Research methods**	**Research methods contd.** **Attachment** **Social Influence**	**Psychopathology** **Y13 Research methods**
Year 13	**Issues and Debates** **Biopsychology** **Schizophrenia** RM - Application of Y13 RESEARCH METHODS is taught alongside the core content	**Aggression** **Gender** RM - Application of Y13 RESEARCH METHODS is taught alongside the core content	

Assessment Overview – each paper is 2 hours long and is assessed externally at the end of the course (Summer Y13)
Paper 1

MEMORY A focus on cognitive perspectives of how we process our memories, and why it is we forget. Real world application focuses on the fallibility of eye-witness testimony, and the development of the police cognitive interview.

PSYCHOPATHOLOGY How do we define abnormality? This topic looks at various answers to this question, and analyses clinical characteristics, explanations and treatments for phobias, OCD and depression.

ATTACHMENT Exploring why and how attachment occurs. What benefits does it give us in later life, and what happens if we are deprived of this bond?

SOCIAL INFLUENCE Research into conformity and obedience, and the social change that occurs as a result

Paper 2

APPROACHES IN PSYCHOLOGY In this topic we explore some of the main approaches in Psychology and their suggestions as to how we should best investigate and understand human behaviour and experience

BIOPSYCHOLOGY An insight into the brain, how modern technology allows us to study it, and how it works to control our thoughts and behaviours. Topics include the localisation of brain function, and biological rhythms.

RESEARCH METHODS Students should demonstrate knowledge and understanding of a range of research methods, scientific processes and techniques of data handling and analysis, be familiar with their use and be aware of their strengths and limitations

Paper 3 Contains 1 x mandatory topic and 3 x optional topics

ISSUES & DEBATES Examining some of the key issues and debates in psychological research, including: Gender and culture bias; nature vs nurture; free will vs determinism and ethical implications.

AGGRESSION A look at the various biological and psychosocial explanations of both individual, group and institutional aggression.

SCHIZOPHRENIA An exploration of how the disorder is classified and diagnosed, and the biological and psychosocial theories about how to explain and treat it.

GENDER In this topic we analyse various biological and psychosocial explanations of our gender identity and explore atypical chromosomes disorders and gender identity disorder.

How we build on prior learning

Links to retrieval and how the curriculum is sequenced to support prior learning and make learning memorable

Interleaving assessment activity

Retrieval practice of content and course material

Key word vocabulary testing

Development of exam technique through feedback and feedforward strategies

Cross-curricular links with other subjects

- Health
- Biology
- Criminology
- English Language / Literature

Useful links and resources to support learning

How can parents/carers support learning at home?

- Help students keep to a good routine with their work
- Encourage students to read around the current topic to consolidate learning
- Ensure that students stick to deadlines and don't fall behind
- Liaise with teachers over any concerns
- Encourage learning in short bursts followed by a short break before another short burst

Studying Psychology is helpful if you are thinking about careers in:

- Neuroscience
- Sports and Exercise
- Clinical Psychology
- Therapy
- Forensic Psychology
- Medicine and Healthcare

- Prison service
- Education
- Legal profession
- Business (particularly Human resources)
- Academia
- Law Enforcement