

YEAR 10 OCR GCSE PSYCHOLOGY (J203) OVERVIEW 2026

Term	Autumn 1 (8 weeks)	Autumn 2 (7 weeks)	Spring 1 (6 weeks)	Spring 2 (5 weeks)	Summer 1 (7 weeks)	Summer 2 (7 weeks)
COMPONENT / PAPER	**P1 Criminal Psychology**	**P1 Criminal Psychology**	**P1 Development**	**P1 Development**	**P1 Psychological Problems**	**P1 Psychological Problems**
TOPIC / LESSON COVERAGE	• Introduction to Criminal Psychology and types of crime • Criminal behaviour as a social construct • How crime is measured: official statistics and self-report • Introduction to Social Learning Theory (SLT) • SLT: role models, observation and imitation • SLT: vicarious and direct reinforcement • Applying SLT to criminal and anti-social behaviour • Cooper & Mackie (1986): Video Games and Aggression in Children	• Evaluating Social Learning Theory • Nature/nurture and criminal behaviour • Introduction to Eysenck's Criminal Personality Theory • Extraversion and neuroticism • Psychoticism and the biological basis of personality • The role of the brain, nervous system and dopamine • Socialisation and conditioning • Heaven (1996): Delinquency, Personality and Self-Esteem • Evaluating Eysenck's theory and individual differences • Punishment, deterrence and rehabilitation	• Introduction to Development: stages of development • Brain development, neurons and synapses • IQ tests and intelligence • Introduction to Piaget's Theory of Cognitive Development • Assimilation and accommodation • Sensorimotor and pre-operational stages • Concrete operational and formal operational stages • Key concepts: object permanence, egocentrism, conservation and reversibility	• Piaget (1952): Conservation of Number • Evaluating Piaget's Theory • Nature/nurture and cognitive development • Dweck's Fixed and Growth Mindset Theory • Praise for effort and the development of a growth mindset • Blackwell, Trzesniewski & Dweck (2007) • Willingham: learning through meaning and the myth of learning styles • Applying learning theories to education • Development retrieval and assessment	• What is mental health? • The mental health continuum • Stigma, discrimination and changing attitudes towards mental health • Schizophrenia: characteristics and key statistics • The dopamine hypothesis • Brain structures and functions in schizophrenia • Social drift theory • Nature/nurture and cause-and-effect criticisms • Daniel et al. (1991): Schizophrenia and cerebral blood flow • Introduction to clinical depression	• Clinical depression: characteristics and statistics • Social rank theory • The ABC Model of clinical depression • Reductionism/holism and freewill/determinism • Tandoc et al. (2015): Facebook use, envy and depression • Treatments: anti-psychotics and anti-depressants • Psychotherapy and neuropsychology • Paper 1 consolidation and assessment **P2 – Social Influence** • Introduction to Paper 2: Social Influence • Conformity and majority influence • Crowd and collective behaviour • Deindividuation • Pro-social and anti-social behaviour • Introduction to obedience and authority figures
Key Resource Links	GCSE - Psychology (9-1) - J203					



Research Methods

Research methods will be embedded throughout the year, rather than taught as a separate unit. Students will develop skills in planning, conducting and analysing psychological research alongside the substantive topics. This will include sampling, variables, experimental design, ethics, data handling, graphs and charts, descriptive statistics and interpreting research findings.

Core Studies covered in Year 10

- Cooper & Mackie (1986) – Video Games and Aggression in Children
- Heaven (1996) – Delinquency, Extraversion, Psychoticism and Self-Esteem
- Piaget (1952) – Conservation of Number
- Blackwell, Trzesniewski & Dweck (2007) – Mindset and Achievement
- Daniel et al. (1991) – Schizophrenia and Cerebral Blood Flow
- Tandoc et al. (2015) – Facebook Use, Envy and Depression

Looking ahead to Year 11

Year 11 will begin by completing Social Influence, including dispositional factors and the Bickman (1974) and NatCen (2011) research studies. Students will then study the remaining Paper 2 topics: Memory and Sleep & Dreaming.

The Spring term will focus on retrieval, consolidation, synoptic links and examination skills, preparing students for the GCSE examinations in Summer 2028.