

HOE VALLEY SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

YEAR 12

Demonstrate Core Knowledge

Explain key psychological approaches (e.g. cognitive, behaviourist, biological).

Show understanding of psychological concepts like memory, attachment, psychopathology, social influence.

Apply Psychological Ideas

Apply theories and research to simple real-life scenarios (e.g. explaining phobias, obedience, forgetting).

Use Research Methods

Understand basic experimental design, sampling, variables, and ethics.

Analyse simple quantitative and qualitative data.

Begin Evaluation Skills

Identify strengths and weaknesses in theories and studies (e.g. methodology, ethics, generalisability). Begin to weigh up competing explanations of behaviour.

YEAR 13

Master Advanced Knowledge

Demonstrate secure understanding of advanced topics (e.g. biopsychology, schizophrenia, forensic psychology, issues & debates).

Apply Psychological Knowledge Flexibly

Apply theories, research, and concepts to complex and unfamiliar scenarios. Use psychological knowledge to suggest interventions & treatments.

Conduct and Evaluate Research Critically

Select appropriate statistical tests and interpret outcomes. Consider ethical and practical issues in research in depth.

Sustain High-Level Evaluation and Synoptic Thinking

Make synoptic links across topics, e.g. linking biological explanations to cognitive or social ones. Engage with issues & debates (e.g. free will vs determinism, nature vs nurture, reductionism vs holism).

Our Psychology course supports progression to psychology-related degrees and careers. Pupils are made aware of the subject's relevance to fields such as mental health, social work, education, law, and business.

Pupils are taught core content from major approaches in psychology (biological, cognitive, behaviourist, psychodynamic, and humanistic). They gain a deep understanding of foundational studies and the development of psychological thinking. Pupils learn to connect theoretical knowledge with real-world applications, including mental health, criminal behaviour, memory, and child development. They are encouraged to evaluate how psychological principles influence society. With a strong emphasis placed on research methods, pupils learn to critically assess experimental design, data collection, and ethical considerations, building the analytical skills necessary for higher education and the workplace. Through structured debates, essay writing, and evaluation tasks, pupils develop the ability to construct well-reasoned arguments, assess evidence, and think independently. This supports both academic success and personal development.



Advanced Research Methods:
Inferential Statistics, Experimental Designs, Data Analysis

Exams



Approaches in Psychology:
Psychodynamic, Humanistic, Comparison of Approaches

Addiction:
Identifying addiction, defining a compulsion

YEAR 13



Issues & Debates:
Ethics, Free Will vs Determinism, Nature vs Nurture, Reductionism, Idiographic vs Nomothetic



Schizophrenia:
Definitions, types, family theories & treatments



Research Methods:
Experimental Design, Variables, Sampling, Ethics, Data Handling & Analysis



Biopsychology:
Nervous System, Endocrine System, Neurotransmitters, Localisation of Function, Plasticity



Attachment:
Caregiver-Infant Interactions, Animal Studies, Deprivation

Psychopathology:
Definitions of Abnormality, Phobias, Depression, OCD + Treatments

YEAR 12



Memory:
Models of Memory, Forgetting, Eyewitness Testimony

Social Influence:
Conformity, Obedience, Resistance, Minority Influence



Topics with the WR logo are directly linked to the Hoe Valley School Work Ready Agenda.

