

## KS5 – Year 13 – Psychology

Term	Topic Titles	Brief Overview
<b>1</b>	Issues and Debates	Gender and culture in Psychology. Free will and determinism. The nature-nurture debate. Holism and reductionism. Idiographic and nomothetic approaches to psychological investigation. Ethical implications of research studies and theory, including reference to social sensitivity.
	Biopsychology	The divisions of the nervous system. The structure and function of sensory, relay and motor neurons. The process of synaptic transmission, including reference to neurotransmitters, excitation and inhibition. The function of the endocrine system: glands and hormones. The fight or flight response. Localisation of function in the brain and hemispheric lateralisation. Plasticity and functional recovery of the brain after trauma. Ways of studying the brain. Biological rhythms: circadian, infradian and ultradian and the difference between these rhythms. The effect of endogenous pacemakers and exogenous zeitgebers on the sleep/wake cycle.
<b>2</b>	Relationships	The evolutionary explanations for partner preferences. Factors affecting attraction in romantic relationships. Theories of romantic relationships. Virtual relationships in social media. Parasocial relationships.
	Aggression	Neural and hormonal mechanisms in aggression. Genetic factors in aggression. The ethological explanation of aggression. Evolutionary explanations of human aggression. Social psychological explanations of human aggression. Institutional aggression in the context of prisons. Media influences on aggression.
	Schizophrenia	Classification of schizophrenia. Biological explanations for schizophrenia: genetics and neural correlates. Psychological explanations for schizophrenia: family dysfunction and cognitive explanations. Drug therapy. Cognitive behaviour therapy and family therapy. Token economies as used in the management of schizophrenia. The importance of an interactionist approach in explaining and treating schizophrenia; the diathesis-stress model.
<b>3</b>	Revision and consolidation	In the final few weeks before external exams start, students focus on structured revision activities.