

SJBC Curriculum Termly Plan: A-level Psychology – Year 12

Term	Topic(s) and links to other subjects	Core Knowledge	Core Vocabulary	Assessment	Resources
Autumn 1	<p>Social Influence</p> <p>Introduction to Research Methods</p> <p>Links to: A-level Sociology A-level Maths</p>	<p>Students will explore key explanations of conformity, including normative and informational social influence, and research studies such as Asch’s conformity study. They will study explanations of obedience, including Milgram’s research, and explanations such as the agentic state and legitimacy of authority. They will also examine resistance to social influence and processes involved in social change.</p> <p>Alongside this, students will be introduced to core research methods concepts, including the aims and hypotheses of psychological research, types of experiments, variables (independent, dependent, extraneous, and confounding), and basic understanding of how to design and conduct a study.</p>	<p>Conformity Compliance Identification Obedience Agentic state Legitimacy of authority Authoritarian personality Resistance to social influence Locus of control Minority influence Social change Social roles Hypothesis (null and alternative) Variables (Independent, dependent, extraneous and cofounding) Standardisation Operationalisation Experimental design Demand characteristics Investigator effects Pilot study Ethical issues</p>	<p>1 hour assessment</p>	<p>Core resources:</p> <p>Enrichment and extension resources:</p>
Autumn 2	<p>Research Methods</p>	<p>Students will develop their understanding of research methods further by exploring experimental and non-experimental methods such as questionnaires, interviews, observations, and case studies. They will learn about types of data (quantitative and qualitative), data handling and descriptive statistics (mean, median, mode, range, standard deviation), and how to represent data in bar charts, histograms and scattergrams.</p> <p>They will also study sampling methods, ethical considerations, and features of scientific research such as reliability, validity, and peer review. Students will apply this knowledge to evaluate methodological strengths and weaknesses of psychological studies and prepare for applied questions in Paper 2.</p>	<p>Correlation Sampling methods (random, opportunity, volunteer) Reliability Validity Descriptive statistics Mean, median, mode and range Standard deviation Bar chart Histogram Scattergram</p>	<p>1 hour assessment</p>	<p>Core resources:</p> <p>Enrichment and extension resources:</p>

Spring 1	<p>Memory</p> <p>Attachment</p>	<p>Students will complete the Memory topic, covering models of memory (MSM and WMM), types of LTM, explanations for forgetting and factors affecting eyewitness testimony.</p> <p>The majority of the term will focus on Attachment. Students will explore caregiver–infant interactions, stages of attachment, and key studies including Schaffer & Emerson and Ainsworth’s Strange Situation.</p>	<p>Multi-Store Model Working Memory Model Types of LTM Interference Eyewitness testimony Caregiver–infant interaction Attachment Strange Situation Monotropy Internal working model Deprivation Privation Institutionalisation</p>		
Spring 2	<p>Attachment <i>continued</i></p> <p><i>Clinical Psychology and mental health</i></p>	<p>Students will explore early social development through caregiver–infant interactions and patterns of attachment. They will study research into stages of attachment and learn how individual differences in attachment style are identified through Ainsworth’s Strange Situation. The term will also introduce explanations for attachment, including learning theory and Bowlby’s monotropic theory, and will consider how secure and insecure attachments influence later relationships. Students will examine cultural variations in attachment and the consequences of deprivation, privation and institutional care, using evidence from longitudinal studies and international research.</p> <p>Students will explore how psychological disorders are defined and classified. They will study the four definitions of abnormality—statistical infrequency, deviation from social norms, failure to function adequately, and deviation from ideal mental health—and evaluate each definition using real-world examples and cultural considerations.</p> <p>Students will examine the behavioural, emotional and cognitive characteristics of phobias, depression and OCD, comparing how these disorders present.</p>			

