

GCSE Psychology

Exam Board: Edexcel

Subject Lead: Mr M Jordan

Curriculum Intent, Implementation and Impact

Curriculum Intent

The GCSE Psychology curriculum at Montsaye Academy is designed to develop students' understanding of human behaviour and mental processes through a scientific and ethical framework. The curriculum aims to:

- Introduce students to psychology as a **scientific discipline**, building secure knowledge of key psychological theories, concepts and research methods.
- Encourage **curiosity, critical thinking and analytical skills**, enabling students to question why people think, feel and behave as they do.
- Develop students' ability to **evaluate evidence**, interpret data and communicate ideas effectively through extended written responses.
- Promote understanding of **mental health, social behaviour and human development**, supporting students' personal wellbeing, empathy and social awareness.
- Prepare students for **successful progression** to post-16 study in Psychology and related subjects, and for future careers in areas such as education, healthcare, law, criminology and social sciences.

The curriculum is inclusive, ambitious and relevant, supporting all learners to achieve strong outcomes while gaining transferable skills for life beyond school.

Curriculum Implementation

GCSE Psychology is delivered following the **Edexcel GCSE Psychology (9–1)** specification and is structured to ensure a logical progression of knowledge and skills across Key Stage 4.

Curriculum Structure

- **Year 10 – Core Content**
 - Development
 - Memory

- Psychological Problems
- The Brain and Neuropsychology
- Social Influence

Alongside subject content, students develop a strong understanding of **research methods**, including study design, data collection, analysis and evaluation.

- **Year 11 – Optional Content**

- Criminal Psychology
- Language, Thought and Communication

Teaching and Learning Approach

- Lessons are sequenced to build from foundational concepts to more complex psychological explanations and evaluations.
- Teaching explicitly links theory to **real-world contexts**, case studies and contemporary issues to enhance engagement and understanding.
- Students regularly practise **exam-style questions**, including application and extended writing, to build confidence and exam literacy.
- Research methods are embedded throughout the curriculum but are also taught as a discrete , reinforcing students’ understanding of psychology as a science.
- Assessment is used formatively and summatively to identify misconceptions, inform planning and support targeted intervention.

Assessment

- Students sit **two written examinations** at the end of Year 11.
- Assessments include multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-response questions, enabling students to demonstrate knowledge, application, analysis and evaluation.
- There is **no coursework**, ensuring consistency and fairness in assessment.

Curriculum Impact

The impact of the GCSE Psychology curriculum at Montsaye Academy is seen through students’ academic progress, skill development and personal growth.

- Students develop a **secure and coherent understanding** of key psychological concepts, research methods and ethical considerations.

- They demonstrate improved abilities in **critical analysis, evaluation and extended writing**, skills that support success across a range of GCSE subjects.
- Students gain insight into **mental health, social behaviour and human development**, promoting empathy, self-awareness and resilience.
- Outcomes reflect strong preparation for **post-16 education**, with students confidently progressing to Psychology and related subjects.
- Knowledge and skills gained equip students to **apply psychological understanding to real-life situations**, supporting informed decision-making and lifelong learning.

Overall, the GCSE Psychology curriculum provides a **high-quality, ambitious and well-sequenced programme of study**, enabling students to leave Montsaye Academy as thoughtful, informed and capable learners.