

### Ark Acton Psychology Curriculum Map

<p>What is the purpose of studying psychology at Ark Acton?</p>	<p>Psychology is the scientific study of the mind, behaviour and feeling and thought. Psychology at Acton can best be described as a multidisciplinary programme of study that draws upon biology, history, chemistry and maths. Students develop a solid understanding of the main psychological perspectives such as the cognitive approach, social learning theory, developmental psychology, the biological approach and the psychodynamic approach as well as the methods used to study the mind.</p>
<p>Where does psychology lead after Ark Acton?</p>	<p>Studying psychology provides students with a wide range of skills that open up opportunities in both the sciences and the arts. Students at Acton have gone onto study psychology at world renowned institutions such as UCL and King's College. Graduates of psychology can apply to join the British Psychological Society and work in fields such as psychiatry, neuroscience and counselling. The skills developed through studying psychology are extremely transferable and those that choose not work in the field often command high salaries working in computing, technology, artificial intelligence, marketing, finance, management, medicine, dentistry, nursing and social policy. As with other sciences, the data collected by psychologists is shared with the public and is used to address a variety of contemporary social problems.</p>
<p>What is the narrative of study at KS5?</p>	<p>Students studying Psychology at A level enjoy a curriculum that develops their expertise in psychology as a discipline and their ability to carry out scientific research. The practical elements of psychology are extremely important and students wishing to study psychology at university will have a solid grounding in research design. Students begin by studying introductory topics and topics in context including developmental psychology, social psychology, memory, approaches and psychopathology, this allows them to experience the core approaches within the discipline. During year 2 students complete optional units including gender, forensic psychology and eating behaviour and the remaining core content of issues and debates, biopsychology and research methods.</p>

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	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Year 13	<p><b>Is the psychological always at first biological?</b></p> <p>We examine how far psychologists are able to explain behaviour in terms of our hormones, genes and brain structure. Evidence from PET scans and post-mortems suggests that they can</p>	<p><b>Is gender decided at birth?</b></p> <p>We consider how far our gender identity is socially constructed. We examine biological, social and psychological explanations for both typical and atypical gender development.</p>	<p><b>What influences our eating behaviour?</b></p> <p>We examine behaviours related to eating. This includes normal behaviours (e.g. explanations for food preferences, neural and hormonal mechanisms involved in controlling eating) or abnormal behaviours (e.g. eating disorders, such as anorexia nervosa and obesity).</p> <p><b>Could psychology keep us safe?</b></p> <p>We assess profiling methods employed by the police in the United Kingdom</p>	<p><b>What are the key debates in psychology?</b> <b>What are the key issues in psychology?</b></p> <p>We consider some of the important arguments in relation to conducting research and explaining behaviour in psychology. The key issues and debates include gender and culture in psychology; free will and determinism; the nature-nurture debates; idiographic and nomothetic approaches and ethical issues and social sensitivity.</p>	Exam preparation	NA

			and America. We ask if psychologists are really able to explain and predict criminality by looking at our personality types, genes or cognitive biases.			
<b>Year 12</b>	<p><b>How scientific is psychology?</b></p> <p>When Wundt opened the first Laboratory dedicated to studying the human mind, his aim was to establish psychology as a science. Since then, psychology has seen numerous approaches and perspectives dominate thinking and then fade away. We consider how far psychology is and should be a science.</p>	<p><b>Is psychology filled with consensus or conflict?</b></p> <p>Cognitive approach is the dominant perspective within contemporary psychology but its superiority is being challenged. We examine the contributions, validity and applications of the core theories including psychoanalysis, biopsychology and behaviourism.</p>	<p><b>Can psychology explain the holocaust?</b></p> <p>Psychologists examine the way conformity and obedience can have disastrous consequences. We consider the reasons why individuals and whole populations blindly follow a dictator even when it goes against their own principles.</p>	<p><b>How can we identify, explain and treat abnormal behaviour?</b></p> <p>We consider the emotional, cognitive and behavioural symptoms of common disorders. We also assess the effectiveness and ethics of various treatments.</p>	<p><b>What happens if we do not bond with our parents?</b></p> <p>Psychologists have long questioned whether a bond between a caregiver and an infant is essential for a healthy and happy life. We assess the impact of insecure attachment on intellectual, moral and social development.</p>	<p><b>How does our memory work? Why do we forget?</b></p> <p>Cognitive psychologists have created models to explain what we cannot directly study, we examine two models of memory. We also assess the implications and applications of memory research.</p>