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GCSE Psychology - Curriculum Overview

AUTUMN 1 AUTUMN 2 SPRING 1 SPRING 2 SUMMER 1 SUMMER 2

Memory & Research Methods

- Processes of memory how memories are encoded and stored, different types of memory (episodic, semantic and procedural)
- The experimental method hypotheses, variables, sampling, experimental design, research procedures, laboratory experiments, types of data, reliability and validity, interpretation & display of quantitative data, correlations
- Structures of memory The multi-store model of memory, features of each store, primacy and recency effects in recall; Key Study - Murdock's serial position curve study
- Memory as an active process the theory of reconstructive memory; Key Study: Bartlett's War of the Ghost's study
- Factors affecting the accuracy of memory interference, context and false memories

Social Influence

- Conformity how social and dispositional factors affect conformity to majority influence. Key study: Asch's study of conformity (ethics)
- Obedience Milgram's Agency theory of social factors affecting obedience (ethics). Dispositional factors affecting obedience -Adorno's theory of the Authoritarian personality (Questionnaires)
- Prosocial behaviour how social and dispositional factors affect bystander intervention. Key study: Pilivin's subway study (field experiments)
- Crowd and collective behaviour prosocial and antisocial behaviour in crowds, how social and dispositional factors affect collective behaviour

Language, thought & communication

- Relationship between language and thought – Piaget's theory and the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis
- The effect of language and thought on our view of the world
- Differences between human and animal communication. Key study: Von Frisch's bee study (observations)
- Non-verbal communication eye contact, body language and personal space
- Explanations of non-verbal behaviour. Key study: Yuki's emoticon study

Brain and neuropsychology & **Research Methods**

- Structure and function of the nervous system. The fight or flight response.
- James-Lange theory of emotion Structure and function of sensory, relay and motor neurons. Synaptic transmission. Hebb's theory of learning and neuronal growth Structure and function of the brain. Localisation of function. Key study: Penfield's study of the interpretive
- cortex (case studies)
- Introduction to neuropsychology cognitive neuroscience, scanning techniques, neurological damage. Key study: Tulving's 'gold' memory study (case studies)

Perception

- Difference between sensation and perception
- Visual cues and constancies monocular and binocular depth cues
- Examples and explanations of visual illusions
 - Gibson's direct theory of perception
- Gregory's constructivist theory of perception
- Factors affecting perception culture, motivation, emotion and expectation. Key studies: Gilchrist & Nesberg study of motivation; Bruner & Minturn study of perceptual set

Development

- Early brain development simple neural structures in the womb reflecting development of processing and cognition
- The roles of nature and nurture in early brain development
- Piaget's stage theory and development of intelligence
- The role of Piaget's theory in education
- Effects of learning on development – Dweck's Mindset theory of learning, learning styles and Willingham's Learning theory

Social Influence & Research Methods

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Psychological problems & Research Methods

- Introduction to mental health characteristics of mental health, how the incidence of significant mental health problems change over time
- Effects of significant mental health problems on individuals and society
- Depression types and symptoms, biological and cognitive explanations of depression, therapies – antidepressant medication and CBT. Key study: Wiles' study of the effectiveness of CBT (field experiment)
- Addiction characteristics and symptoms, biological and psychological explanation, therapies aversion therapy and selfmanagement programmes. Key study: Kaij's twin study of alcohol abuse (questionnaires and interviews)

Revision

Paper 1: Memory, perception, development & research methods Paper 2: Social influence, language, thought & communication, brain & neuropsychology, psychological problems



