



Newport Girls' High School Curriculum Summary

Faculty: Humanities	Subject: Psychology
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Our Vision

Faculty Vision

The humanities faculty at NGHS consists of the history, geography, religious studies, psychology, politics and economics departments. Our overriding vision for the faculty is to produce learners who have an excellent understanding of all aspects of the world we live in. Our range of subjects allows students to glean an understanding of global cultures and world views, whilst also enabling them to learn from the past and apply their learning to the relevance of today's society. We endeavour to encourage learners to make links between society, people and the physical environment, and work to make well-rounded, intellectually curious young people with excellent thinking skills, and with empathy and respect for the views of others. We strive to keep our curriculum relevant and up to date, incorporating contemporary issues such as climate change and conflict alongside historical comparisons in all of the humanities subjects. By the end of key stage 5, we expect students to be leaving us with an excellent understanding of global issues and challenges and to be literate in the use of specialist subject terminology

Subject Vision

Psychology at NGHS is taught with the aim of allowing students to engage in the science of mental life and its scope includes a wide variety of issues. It addresses such questions as: why do we conform? What causes criminal behaviour? What predisposes two people to get on with each other and fall in love? What causes schizophrenia and other mental disorders.

Psychology is a scientific discipline, involving the rigorous formulation and testing of ideas, and the evaluation and analysis of theories, explanations and experiments. It gives students the opportunity to gain knowledge of profound and ground-breaking research, in addition to conducting their own psychological studies and investigations.

All-in-all, Psychology at NGHS is taught to get each and every student to ask why everyday human behaviour is the way that it is.

Curriculum Intent

Psychology is not currently taught at KS3 and KS4. This is to allow all students the opportunity to complete the study of GCSE subjects which require this prior knowledge in order to provide the foundations necessary for A-Level study. Students begin the study of psychology for the first time in KS5 and in line with the vast majority of schools across the country.

At KS5, students study the AQA Psychology specification which is selected for its comprehensive exploration of a huge range of topics within psychology. This includes topics such as; social influence, memory, attachment, relationships and forensic psychology, as well as looking at the causes and treatment of a range of mental disorders. Students are also required to engage in research methods which demands a precise and thorough understanding of how high-quality psychological research is conducted, in line with the features of other sciences. These topics prepare all students for higher education and also a world with humans at its centre.

The AQA assessment criteria also allows all students to develop a range of skills which superbly compliment not only the other humanities subjects, but also English, maths and the other sciences.

Curriculum Sequencing Rationale & Implementation

Topics are taught in an order which allows for more simple and fundamental skills and components to be learnt and understood first. Students first learn about arrange of simple yet essential pieces of research, which provide an understanding of social influence processes and also key evaluative aspect of research and theories. Very quickly the sequential topics require students to delve back into these previous topics in order to create links and build upon their knowledge and understanding. This chosen order of sequence is in line with the AQA specification and the AQA authorised text book which all students use in every lesson and for wider study. Students are also encouraged to complete weekly wider reading and research in order to stretch and challenge their knowledge and understanding of topics within psychology.

KS5:

Example 1

The first topic that students study is that of Social Influence. This includes simple studies conducted by the like of Asch and Milgram. These simple studies provide a basic understanding of the research process, including things such as validity, bias, representative samples and ethical issues. These simple concepts are fundamental to the whole of the psychology course but are also accessible to students just beginning a brand-new subject. Throughout this topic these new concepts are built upon and by the end of the topic students are able to explore these ideas with ease within many other studies and explanations. By the end of Year 12, this progressive approach means that the whole research methods topic can be taught in only two weeks, whilst other schools spend up to 8 weeks on this.

Example 2

In the second half of the spring term students study various approaches within psychology, which allows them to further apply what they have learnt in the pervious three topics. In this topic students examine the biological approach which contains knowledge of fundamental biological processes and how these are studied. This basic examination of the relationship between biology and human behaviour provides a simple basis which is crucial when students study the more challenging biopsychology topic at the end of year 12. The knowledge and understanding that they gain in studying the biological approach means that more challenging concepts within biopsychology can be easily accessed and understood.

For specific information relating to the content of the curriculum in each year group, opportunities for wider personal development and enrichment and ways for parents to support their daughter in her learning within this subject, please see the Learning Overviews on our website.