



# Core Concepts Psychology

Curriculum Themes (these can be disciplinary/procedural or substantive/declarative)	Core concepts - How the theme is developed through the curriculum						
	Induction	Approaches	Research Methods	Psychopathology	Memory	Attachment	Social Influence
Nature/ Nurture Debate	Define what is meant by the nature vs nurture debate.	Identify and explain where each approach sits on the nature vs nurture debate.	N/A	Identify and explain how Biological explanation of OCD may be due to nature i.e genetics and how phobia may be a result of learning i.e nurture.	N/A	Compare and contrast Biological explanations of attachment (Bowlby monotypy) with learning theory.	Discuss social influence concepts such as authoritarian personality- make arguments for and against nature explanations.
Economy	Define what is meant by the economy in relation to Psychology.	N/A	N/A	Explain how the success of Biological, Cognitive and Behaviourist treatments for mental illnesses can benefit the economy by getting people back into work.	Explain how knowledge of how our memory works can benefit students in terms of revision techniques, therefore being successful in passing exams and consequently making next steps in education and careers.	Explain how research into the sensitive responsiveness of the parent can support mothers return to work following maternity leave or encourage father's to take paternity leave to care for children.	Explain how Social influence research can be used to encourage the public to conform to the norms and values of British society, i.e campaigns to not drop litter, not miss NHS appointments.
Idiographic Approach	N/A	Discuss how Humanistic and Psychodynamic approaches are considered ideographic and identify the strengths and weakness associated with this.	Identify research methods which take an ideographic approach, i.e case study method, describe the strengths and weaknesses of this method.	Evaluate the ideographic nature of behaviourist treatments for phobia.	Discuss idiographic cases such as patient KF and Clive Wearing, explain how unique cases revealed anomalies in existing theory and brought about paradigm shifts.	Discuss the unique case of Romanian orphans research, how did such a unique case aid understanding of the critical period of development?	Discuss how resistance to conformity and minority influence have brought about social change in society, i.e suffragette movement.
Nomothetic Approach	N/A	Discuss how Biological and Behaviourist approaches are considered ideographic and identify the strengths and weakness associated with this.	Identify research methods which take a nomothetic approach, i.e experimental, describe the strengths and weaknesses of this method.	Evaluate the nomothetic nature of biological treatments OCD.	Discuss the working memory model and how computer models are used to make generalisations about capacity, duration etc	Discuss how stages of attachment, and types of attachment are said to apply to all infants.	Discuss how explanations of conformity and obedience are said to apply to all people.
Reductionism Debate	Define what is meant by reductionism and holism.	Identify which approaches are reductionist and which are holistic	N/A	Discuss research that suggests taking a more holistic approach to treating depression is the most effective treatment.	N/A		
Free will Debate	N/A	Identify which approaches take a reductionist approach and which take an holistic approach to explaining behaviour.	N/A	Explain how Biological explanations of OCD are deterministic, and how Behaviourist explanations of phobia are deterministic.	N/A	Explain how Bowlby's monotypy theory, and research into the influence of early attachment on later development are deterministic.	
Real world applications	Demonstrate an awareness of what is meant by 'Real world applications' in general.	N/A	Describe and evaluate the use of 'peer review' in the allocation of funding for research, publication of Psychological research.	Demonstrate an understanding of factors that influence, which mental health treatments may be more effective than others in the real world.	Identify which memory models will help students be more effective in their revision techniques such as 'chunking' as linked to capacity.	Suggest techniques that will aid parents to raise a securely attached infant.	Identify how social change for 'good' has been brought about by social movements.
Ethnocentrism	N/A	Discuss approaches in it's historical context- i.e founding fathers Wundt, Watson, Freud: Western , individualistic societies.	N/A	Identify and discuss errors and bias in diagnosis based on cultural stereotypes, e.g Schizophrenia and Black ethnic minorities.	N/A	Discuss ethnocentric bias and implications in studying attachment , i.e Ainsworth's types of attachment.	Discuss the ethnocentric nature of American research within this topic, what implications does this have on the research findings within social influence.
Social Sensitivity	Outline what is meant by Social sensitivity and identify BPS ethical guidelines.	Discuss why the Psychodynamic and Biological approaches may be considered the most socially sensitive.	Identify BPS ethical guidelines and suggest how they should be implemented and adhered to during the research process.	Discuss how errors and biases in the diagnosis and treatment of mental illness can be socially sensitive.	N/A	Discuss how research into the role of the father and maternal deprivation may have negative consequences for the way mothers and fathers are viewed by society.	Identify and describe which ethical guidelines are broken by social influence research.