



University Learning in Schools

Psychology

Myth-busting the Brain

Module Outline

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Module outline

Title of Module: Myth-busting the Brain
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Module outline

1. What is the overall topic area?

<p>This module aims to guide pupils to uncover the truth behind common psychological and brain-based myths.</p>

2. How does it link to current research and why does the researcher think this is an important topic for pupils to get to grips with?

<p>Neuroscience is a field that has undergone a huge revolution in recent years. Headlines and brain scanning images are now commonly featured in mass media. However, these are often highly generalised, with conclusions taken far beyond the context of published papers. This module will encourage pupils to challenge what they may have heard from friends, family and media about key elements of the human brain.</p>

3. How is this topic aiming to improve teacher subject knowledge?

<p>This module aims to equip teachers with some psychological knowledge based around key KS3 science concepts. By taking a human behaviour-based stance, teachers will hopefully encourage pupils to apply their knowledge of scientific processes and practice in a new, personable way.</p>

4. What key texts/case studies/experiments/processes are being considered?
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<p>Key content will be based around the 2014 book <i>Great Myths of the Brain</i> by Dr Christian Jarrett. Written from a cognitive neuroscience perspective, this aims to challenge historical and current mainstream beliefs of cognitions and brain functioning. As the pupils will not have studied psychology in any context before, basic supporting material, such as materials on brain structure, will also be included. Case studies of psychological disorders will be included in information sheets.</p>

5. How is this topic aiming to enhance pupils' subject knowledge and improve pupil outcomes?

Although psychology is innately relevant to us all, it is often not made available as an option of study for pupils until A-Level. By tackling myths frequently featuring in media, spoken language and culture, this topic aims to encourage pupils to challenge commonly-held assumptions about the brain. Pupils will hence develop critical thinking skills relevant to scientific concepts and beyond to other teaching. Content will also feature elements of KS3 science teaching, such as evolution and basic anatomy, enabling synthesis of previously-learned content in a psychological context.