

Catholic Social Teaching in Psychology

	KS3	KS4	KS5
Life and Dignity of the Human Person <i>All created in the image and likeness of God</i> 			➤ Research in psychopathology (OCD, phobias & depression), schizophrenia, and gender encourages respect for every individual's inherent worth by reducing stigma and promoting understanding of mental health conditions and diversity. ➤ Studies of memory also highlight the importance of fair treatment in contexts such as eyewitness testimony, recognising the dignity of those affected by inaccurate recall.
Call to family, community and participation <i>Whatever is needed for each person to flourish</i> 			➤ Attachment theory emphasises the importance of secure early relationships in healthy emotional and social development, reflecting the value of strong family life. ➤ Role of family dysfunction in schizophrenia informs need for healthy family interactions ➤ Social influence research shows how belonging to groups shapes behaviour, encourages discussion of positive participation in communities and recognises the risks of harmful conformity or blind obedience (e.g. Authoritarian personality)

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Solidarity and the common good <i>Not just doing things for other people but acting with them to build a more just world together</i> 			➤ Understanding how aggression and impact of social influence can help schools and societies reduce violence, prejudice and harmful group behaviour. ➤ Issues and debates topics, such as cultural bias and socially sensitive research, promote inclusive thinking and consideration of how psychological theories affects different communities.
The dignity of work and the rights of workers <i>As far as possible, decisions should not be taken at the highest levels but by the people who are most affected</i> 			➤ Knowledge of memory and social influence processes like conformity and obedience, can be applied to improve workplace training e.g. cognitive load, decision-making and ethical leadership - protecting employees from coercion or mental stress ➤ Issues and debates around ethical treatment of participants (including non-human animals) reinforce the responsibility of psychologists to respect the rights and wellbeing of research participants.

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Stewardship of God's creation <i>We are called to care for creation as stewards, not just as consumers</i> 			➤ Biopsychology highlights the importance of caring for the human body and brain through healthy lifestyles and informed medical practice, supporting responsible stewardship of physical wellbeing. ➤ Ethical discussions in issues and debates also encourage careful and responsible use of scientific research and resources in ways that benefit society e.g. poor validity in animal research discourages use unethical treatment of animals
Rights and responsibilities <i>When one person has a right, others have a responsibility to uphold that right</i> 			➤ Research into schizophrenia and psychopathology supports the right to appropriate healthcare while emphasising society's responsibility to challenge discrimination and provide support for those with mental illness. ➤ Memory research also underlines responsibilities within the justice system to ensure evidence is evaluated carefully and fairly.

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Option for the poor and the vulnerable <i>To choose to consider the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable people first</i> 			➤ Attachment research shows how adverse childhood experiences can affect later development, highlighting the need to support vulnerable children and families. ➤ Understanding psychopathology, schizophrenia, and aggression can inform interventions that protect disadvantaged or marginalised individuals and improve access to compassionate care. ➤ Negative effects of institutionalisation reinforces the need for adequate emotional care and developmental resources in institutions like orphanages, residential homes.