

# A-Level Psychology Course Information

## Course Overview

- **Exam Board** – AQA
- **Usual Age Range** – 16-19
- **Qualification** – A-level
- **Curriculum Time** – Five 50 minute sessions per week, additional work in Independent Learning Time
- **Assessment** – this curriculum is assessed via:
  - 3 exams (2h each)
- **Grading** - A\*-E
- **Full specification:**  
<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/a-level/psychology-7182/specification>

## Curriculum Intent

The Psychology curriculum at North East Futures UTC is centred upon developing the analytical and critical thinking skills that students will require when they enter the world of work. They study classic psychological research and contemporary theory, including varying branches of psychology (cognitive, developmental, biological, social, and forensic). In addition, students consider differing approaches to psychology and issues and debates that surround the discipline. The skills students will develop:

- **Communication** – communication is critical for any career, but it is especially important when studying human behaviour. Clinical psychologists must communicate clearly with their clients, while research psychologists must be able to effectively describe observations and write up their findings in a specific and structured format.
- **Numeracy** – psychological research often involves quantitative information. Students will learn to look at large amounts of data and be able to meaningfully interpret it. Students will learn to summarise these data with the use of statistical tests and to summarise these data into graphs and tables. Additionally, they will calculate measures of central tendency, range, standard deviation, ratios and percentages. They will then determine if the results have a significant impact on the wider human population.
- **Ethics** – psychologists have a responsibility to care for and protect the people they work with. Students will learn about past psychological studies that have lacked an ethical foundation and familiarise themselves with the legal ethical boundaries for modern research.

- **Problem solving** – this is a fundamental skill used in psychology; using critical thinking skills and the knowledge students gain from the broad reading requirements they will solve psychological problems, learn to come up with alternative explanations for results, and gain a holistic approach to human behaviour.

## Remote Learning and Revision

Students will benefit from additional study on-site and at home using their personal Chromebooks provided by the UTC. They can access all lesson materials on Google classroom.

Students can also communicate with the teacher via email, Google classroom, or Google chat.

- Crash Course Psychology

<https://thecrashcourse.com/courses/psychology>

- Seneca

<https://app.senecalearning.com/dashboard/courses/add?Price=Free>

- Illuminate online textbook AS

<https://illuminate.digital/aqapsych2edy1/>

- Illuminate online textbook A2

<https://illuminate.digital/aqapsych2edy2/>

Some other useful websites:

- Psychology Today: <https://www.psychologytoday.com/gb>
- Simply psychology: <https://www.simplypsychology.org>

*Note: the full Curriculum Plans are available on request to [info@nef.tynecoast.academy](mailto:info@nef.tynecoast.academy)*

[The learning in Psychology is sequenced as follows:](#)

### [Year 1 – AS](#)

- [1. Approaches for AS psychology: biological, learning, cognitive](#)
- [2. Research methods: scientific process, statistical processes, data handling analysis](#)
- [3. Social psychology: social influences](#)
- [4. Cognitive psychology: memory](#)
- [5. Developmental psychology: attachment](#)

6. Individual differences: psychopathology
7. Biopsychology: structure and function of the brain

## Year 2 – A2

1. Approaches part two: psychodynamic, humanistic, comparisons
2. Forensic psychology: defining crime, offender profiling, biological and psychological explanations for offending behaviour, dealing with offending behaviour.
3. Cognition and development: Piaget, Vygotsky, and Baillargeon's explanations of development
4. Schizophrenia: classification, biological explanations, psychological explanations, drug therapies, psychological therapies
5. Issues and debates in psychology: nature vs nurture, gender, free will vs determinism, ethics
6. Revision