# A Level Psychology

# Course Overview

* **Exam Board** – AQA
* **Usual Age Range** – 16-19
* **Qualification** – A-level
* **Curriculum Time** – Two 120 minute sessions per week in class plus up to 60 minutes of in-class revision/academic support, additional work in Independent Learning Time
* **Assessment** – this curriculum is assessed via:
  + 3 exams (120 mins each)

**Grading** - A\*-E

* **Full specification**:
* <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/as-and-a-level/psychology-7181-7182/teaching-resources?f.Qualification%7CE=A->

# 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 all branches of psychology (cognitive, developmental, biological, social, forensic, and health). 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 test and to 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.

# Study Tips

Students will benefit from additional study, including:

* Crash Course Psychology

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

* Seneca

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

* Illuminate online textbook

<https://www.illuminatepublishing.com/product/aqa-psychology-for-a-level-year-1-as-student-book-2nd-edition>

Some other useful websites:

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

The learning in Psychology is sequenced as follows:

Year 1 – AS

1. Social psychology: social influences
2. Cognitive psychology: memory
3. Developmental psychology: attachment
4. Individual differences: psychopathology
5. Approaches for AS psychology: biological, learning, cognitive
6. Biopsychology: structure and function of the brain
7. Research methods: scientific process, statistical processes, data handling analysis

Year 2 – A2

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