

BTEC Applied Psychology

Course Name	BTEC Applied Psychology
How this Course Start fits into the first term of the course	<p>The first task links to Unit 1 (Psychological Approaches & Applications), which you will learn about September-December and you will have a 1 and half hour exam in January 2024. It is vital that you understand the different approaches to understanding human behaviour, and how they can be applied to real life.</p> <p>The second task links to Unit 2 (Conducting Psychological Investigations), which you will learn about January-July and hand in 3 pieces of coursework. An important part of the course is understanding how psychologists conduct research, and being able to evaluate different methods.</p>
How will my Course Start learning be used in lessons?	It will be integrated into lessons in the first year, as you learn about the various approaches and the different research methods used by psychologists.
Course Start learning objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To introduce you to the 4 approaches to understanding human behaviour • To encourage you to become accustomed to the language of Psychology • To enable you to develop an understanding of the experimental method and the issues associated with this
Study Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent Research • Application of what you have learnt to real life • Evaluation of the experimental method • Extended writing- involving critical reflection

Expectations for BTEC Applied Psychology:

The [specification](#)

Overall, the course is **58% exam** and **42% coursework**. Please note that **Year 1 is worth 50% and Year 2 is worth 50%** of your overall grade.

Year 1

Unit 1: Psychological Approaches and Applications. Content is covered between September & December. This is assessed via an **exam** in January 2024. It is 90 guided learning hours.

Unit 2: Conducting Psychological Investigations. This is 3 pieces of **coursework**. The content is covered from January and you submit on various deadlines between January & May. It is 90 guided learning hours.

Total: 180 guided learning hours - 50% of your overall grade

Year 2

Unit 3: Health Psychology. Content is covered between September & December. This is assessed via an **exam** in January 2025. It is 120 guided learning hours.

Unit 4: Criminal & Forensic Psychology. This involves 3 pieces of **coursework**. The content is covered from January and submitted on various deadlines between January & May. It is 60 guided learning hours.

Total: 180 guided learning hours - 50% of your overall grade

BTEC Applied Psychology: 'Course Start' Work

Course Start is independent learning you need to complete as a fundamental part of your introduction to the course. It should take you approximately 5 hours to complete.

Task 1: Psychological Approaches and Applications

Research the following 4 approaches to human behaviour and create an A4 poster on each one.

- Biological
- Social
- Learning
- Cognitive

For each approach, please include:

- 1 assumption of the approach (i.e. what they believe the cause of behaviour is)
- 1 x real study which has been conducted - who did it, what was done, and what was found?
- 1 x real-life useful application of the approach (relating to either gender, consumer behaviour or aggression)

Some useful videos to help you learn more about the approaches:

[BTEC Level 3 Applied Psychology in 60\(ish!\) Seconds: The Biological Approach](#)

[BTEC Level 3 Applied Psychology in 60\(ish!\) Seconds: The Learning Approach](#)

[BTEC Level 3 Applied Psychology in 60\(ish!\) Seconds: The Social Approach](#)

[BTEC Level 3 Applied Psychology in 60\(ish!\) Seconds: The Cognitive Approach](#)

You can also look at the course specification (link is near the start of this document - look at Unit 1 information from Page 17 - 21).

The course textbook is very useful - if you would like to be extra-prepared for September, here are the details:

The Pearson textbook - available on Amazon etc. 'Pearson BTEC National Applied Psychology: Book 1 Revised Edition Paperback – 11 Nov. 2022 by [Cara Flanagan](#), [Mark Walsh](#), & [Rob Liddle](#) (Author)

Task 2: Conducting Psychological Investigations

During New Students Day you conducted a mini experiment on whether or not chunking words affected people's memory ability.

Now, please use this to write 500 words (half a page) on the following:

- 1) Consider 2 strengths of the research
- 2) Consider 2 weaknesses of your research

Try to use a PEC structure when you write your strengths & weaknesses:

Point: A strength/weakness of my study is that...

Example: For example...

Comment: Therefore this means that... (or however...)

3) What might be the practical applications of your research? Who could use it in the future?

4) What would you do differently next time?

If you were not at New Students Day, or you cannot remember what happened, please use the information below:

Students tested the following hypothesis:

There will be a difference in the number of letters remembered when the information is chunked compared to not chunked.

They made two word lists that looked like this:

List 1:

juseklfirndhanwuhdlsoiheuydjnhggt

List 2:

jus ekl fir ndh anw uhd lso ihe uyd jnh ggt

- They tested 5 different people for each condition.
- They got all participants to learn the list of words for 1 minute and then recall for 1 minute.
- The test was conducted in a busy classroom where there was lots of

noise and people moving about

The results were as follows:

Mean number of letters remembered in the not chunked condition	Mean number of letters remembered in the chunked condition
5	12

The results showed that people were able to recall more words when they had been chunked into threes compared to when they had to learn them as a string of information.

Please write your answers in as much detail as you can! Ensure you bring this with you to your first Psychology lesson in September.