Independent Scholarship Award: A Level Psychology

Bronze (Must Be Completed)	Silver	Gold

1. **APPROACHES IN PSYCHOLOGY**: Research the different approaches to studying the mind and behaviour used by psychologists:
• Video: Crash Course Introduction to Psychology - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vo4pMVb0R6M
• Reading A: What is Psychology?
• Reading B: What is Psychology?
• Task: Complete approaches spider-diagram – summarise the key assumptions of each approach and the research methods they use.
 	
2. **RESEARCH METHODS**: Understand how Psychology adopts a scientific approach to the study of mind and behaviour, using a variety of different research methods.
• Video: Crash Course in Psychology – Research and Experimentation https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hFV71QPvX2I
• Video: The Science Show Psych – Hindsight Bias https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=csqOL_KT4Go
• Reading C: Introduction to Psychology – The Scientific Approach
• Task: For each piece of research complete a Research Worksheet – summarising and evaluating each piece of research.
    o Cognitive dissonance
    o Gender
    o Jury decision making
    o Helping behaviour
 	
3. **CAREERS IN PSYCHOLOGY**: Some people who study psychology go on to develop a career working as a psychologist. There are a number of different careers in psychology. Using the two websites below and wider research, find out what careers are available in psychology and what they involve (make brief notes summarising at least three of these). You should also explore other careers for which a degree in psychology is useful.
• https://careers.bps.org.uk/
• https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-mydegree/psychology
	CASE STUDIES: Psychologists sometimes use case studies to explore issues that cannot be investigated experimentally. Case studies cannot give definitive answers, but they can provide useful information. You will look at the case of Genie. This is a tragic case of a child that was kept in severely deprived conditions for more than a decade. The case raises issues relating to 'critical periods' – the theory that there are crucial periods in our development during which we must get the appropriate experiences in order to develop particular abilities. For example, if a person does not experience love and affection during their first five years of life, will they be able to form attachments to other people? If they do not get exposed to language, will they ever be able to learn to use language proficiently?
	
	Genie's tragic case enabled psychologists to explore these questions.
	
	• Video: Genie https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VjZolHCrC8E
	• Case studies of privation – read case studies and answer questions
		INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY – GOING DEEPER
		The reading for this is quite challenging, but will enable you to develop your understanding of what psychology is and how psychologists approach the study and explanation of behaviour. It goes much deeper into the origins of psychology, and the research methods psychologists use to test their theories and gather data.
		
		This work consists of reading an introductory chapter from a psychology textbook, and answering questions on the chapter to check your understanding.
		
		• Reading: Introduction to Psychology
		• Two sets of questions on Introduction to Psychology
		    o Questions requiring written answers using appropriate key terms
		    o Multi-choice questions