

## Independent Scholarship Award: A Level Psychology

Bronze (Must Be Completed)	Silver	Gold
<p>1. <b>APPROACHES IN PSYCHOLOGY:</b>                      Research the different approaches to studying the mind and behaviour used by psychologists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Video: Crash Course Introduction to Psychology - <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vo4pMVb0R6M">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vo4pMVb0R6M</a></li> <li>• Reading A: What is Psychology?</li> <li>• Reading B: What is Psychology?</li> <li>• Task: Complete approaches spider-diagram – summarise the key assumptions of each approach and the research methods they use.</li> </ul>	<p>Complete the Future Learn course on the History and Science of Psychology. This course is run by Monash University and starts on May 4th. It involves six hours of study per week for two weeks. This will be very useful for the Approaches unit of the A Level. The link for the course is: <a href="https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/historyscience-psychology">https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/historyscience-psychology</a></p>	<p><b>THE NATURE-NURTURE DEBATE:</b> The nature versus nurture debate is one of the oldest debates in psychology. It centres on the relative contributions of genetic inheritance and environmental factors to human development and behaviour. In simple terms, are you the way you are because of your genetics and inherited characteristics, or because of your environment, experiences and learning history? To explore this issue you will be watching a documentary about a controversial study, but it does raise thought-provoking questions about this issue (as well as questions about the ethics of research).                      Your task:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watch ‘Three Identical Twins’ – this can be found on Channel 4 (All-4) TV channel so you should all have access to it.</li> <li>• Reading: New Scientist – Three Identical Strangers</li> <li>• Reading: What light does Three Identical Strangers throw on the nature-nurture debate (this is a challenging article – don’t worry if you do not understand all of it)</li> <li>• Nature-nurture debate reading and activities – read the article and complete the activities and check your understanding questions at the end of the section.</li> </ul>
<p>2. <b>RESEARCH METHODS:</b> Understand how Psychology adopts a scientific approach to the study of mind and behaviour, using a variety of different research methods.</p>	<p><b>CASE STUDIES:</b> 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.</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Video: Crash Course in Psychology – Research and Experimentation <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hFV71QPvX2I">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hFV71QPvX2I</a></li> <li>• Video: The Science Show Psych – Hindsight Bias <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=csqOL_KT4Go">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=csqOL_KT4Go</a></li> <li>• Reading C: Introduction to Psychology – The Scientific Approach</li> <li>• Task: For each piece of research complete a Research Worksheet – summarising and evaluating each piece of research. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cognitive dissonance</li> <li>○ Gender</li> <li>○ Jury decision making</li> <li>○ Helping behaviour</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>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?</p> <p>Genie’s tragic case enabled psychologists to explore these questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Video: Genie <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VjZolHCrC8E">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VjZolHCrC8E</a></li> <li>• Case studies of privation – read case studies and answer questions</li> </ul>	
<p>3. <b>CAREERS IN PSYCHOLOGY:</b> 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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://careers.bps.org.uk/">https://careers.bps.org.uk/</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-mydegree/psychology">https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-mydegree/psychology</a></li> </ul>		