

Course Start

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.

Course Name	Psychology A Level
How this Course Start fits into the first term of the course	The focus is on the approaches, perspectives and research methods. Awareness of these elements will provide a foundation to the A Level Psychology programme.
How will my Course Start learning be used in lessons?	The content will be integrated into lessons throughout the two years, both as descriptive and evaluative concepts.
Course Start learning objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the language of psychology • Develop an understanding of a key psychological area • Develop critical thinking skills
Study Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent Research • Application of guidelines to scenarios • Evaluation of the ethical guidelines against key criteria such as usefulness • Extended writing- involving critical reflection on the value of following ethical guidelines.

Expectations for:

Our specification is: OCR A Level Psychology 2015 - 100% examination

What this course involves
Designing and implementing 4 practicals covering a range of research methods. This is to be done either in pairs, small groups or as a whole class group.
A 10% arithmetic component, which includes descriptive and inferential statistics
Being introduced to classic and contemporary research as a way of understanding the different psychological areas and perspectives.
Developing an understanding of how psychology can be used to understand mental health, crime and sport and exercise

A Level Psychology Course Start

Directed Learning Tasks



OCR Psychology (H567) – Course Start Assignment

Psychology Perspectives and Methods Poster Project

Learning Objective:

To build your understanding of the **7 core approaches and perspectives** in Psychology and the **4 main research methods** used in psychological research.

Background:

You have now been introduced to the different **ways psychologists explain human behaviour** (approaches/perspectives) and the **methods they use to study it**. This project allows you to creatively summarise and **communicate your learning** to others – an important first step in becoming a psychologist!

Your Task:

Create a set of **10 individual A4 posters across the summer break**:

- **7 posters** on the **main psychological approaches/perspectives**
- **4 posters** on the **key research methods** in Psychology



The 7 Approaches/Perspectives

Create **one A4 poster** for each of the following:

1. **Social** (This will be/has been demonstrated in the lesson)
2. **Biological**
3. **Cognitive**
4. **Behaviourist**
5. **Developmental**
6. **Individual Differences**
7. **Psychodynamic**

Each poster should include:

- The **name** of the approach (as the title)
- **Key assumptions** – What does this approach believe about behaviour? (with **key terms underlined**)
- A **key study/example**

- **Strengths and weaknesses** of this approach
- A **real-world application**
- At least **one relevant image or diagram**

Sites which you may wish to use;

<https://psychologywithmisssmith.wordpress.com/>

<https://www.psychologywizard.net>

<https://www.tutor2u.net/psychology>

<https://www.simplypsychology.org>



The Research Methods

Create **one A4 poster** for each of the following methods:

1. **Experiment**
2. **Observation**
3. **Self-report**
4. **Correlation**

Each poster should include:

- The **method name** (as the title)
- A **definition** of the method (with **key words underlined**)
- **Advantages** and **limitations**
- A **relevant example** from psychology
- At least **one relevant image or visual aid**

Presentation Guidelines:

- Posters must be on **A4 paper**
- Use **bold headings**, **underlined keywords**, and clear layout
- Include at least **one key image or diagram** on each poster. Make it colourful and memorable
- Keep information **concise**, **accurate**, and **engaging**
- Aim to make each poster informative enough that another student could learn the basics from it and that you can revise!

Deadline: These posters need to be submitted to your Psychology tutor in your **first Psychology lesson in September**.

Top Tip: Don't leave this work to the end of your holidays as it will require you to take a more consistent approach.



Optional Challenge:

Add a section to each approach/ perspective poster linking it to a **key debate in Psychology** (e.g., nature vs nurture, reductionism vs holism).

Good luck with your GCSE results!

The Psychology Team