KS5

A-Level Psychology Summer Work 2026

It is very important that you try your best in this task.

If you **do not attempt this task (without good reason), it is unlikely you will be allowed to enrol.** **The content of this task will be assessed in the first week of the term.** You will be allowed to have your summer work with you when you complete the assessment so the better it is the more support you will be giving yourself in the first assessment.

TASK: Research and answer questions on research methods used in Psychology.

There are a number of websites that may help you, for example look online for 'Tutor2u Psychology' and 'Simply Psychology'. Any good A-Level psychology book will also help you.

For this task you can also **use the online Psychology textbook**: https://www.illuminate.digital/aqapsych1/

Username: TSTJOHNSSN8 Password: SN84AX From page 166 (Chapter 6)

RESEARCH METHODS NOTES

1. In terms of conducting a piece of research, what is meant by these terms:

TERM	DEFINITION
The research aim	
A directional (one-tailed hypothesis)	
A non-directional (two-tailed hypothesis)	
A null hypothesis	

2. Are the following hypotheses directional (one-tailed) or non-directional (two-tailed)? Tick the correct column.

HYPOTHESIS	DIRECTIONAL (ONE-TAILED)	NON-DIRECTIONAL (TWO-TAILED)
There will be a significant difference in the amount of sweat produced by participants who play sport and participants who do not play sport.		
Participants who take vitamins daily will not have fewer health problems than participants who do not take daily vitamins.		
There will be a significant correlation between tiredness and concentration levels.		
People who are older will score less well on vision tests.		
Playing of music in class will reduce concentration.		

3. Clearly define the terms:
   Independent variable –

   Dependant variable –

   Control variable –

4. What does it mean to operationalise any of the above variables?

5. Explain these four types of experiment. Highlight one strength and weakness of each type.

TYPE	DEFINITION	STRENGTH AND WEAKNESS
Laboratory		
Field		
Natural		
Quasi		

6. What is meant by the term "experimental design"?

7. Explain these three experimental designs:

   - Independent groups

   - Repeated measures

   - Matched pairs