

Aim Higher



At the start of the year, the “Aim Higher” group were encouraged to try out a MOOC. To begin with, I had no clue what MOOC even stood for, but discovered it stands for

“massive open online course”. They are usually free but a lot of websites have the option to pay for certificates. Some MOOCs have set lessons a week and hours you have to complete, where as others are more open so you can work on it when you have some spare time. There are millions of MOOCs out there ranging from forensic science to the art of photography or, the one I chose, educational psychology.

The MOOC had no set hours or dates restricting me

which was perfect as I could fit it alongside A-level work and my internship. When looking at what MOOC to pick, I deliberately chose one related to psychology as it really interests me and is something I want to pursue in the future.

I found the MOOC related to things I had learnt in class and was much more in-depth than psychology at A-level. For example, the textbook talks about Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs but doesn’t mention the terms ‘deficit needs’ and ‘being needs’ whereas the MOOC explained both and related them to educational situations. I also found it useful at refreshing information I had already learnt. The first topic in psychology at A-level is about behaviourism and so was the first module on the MOOC. This meant I could revise what I already knew while learning some more challenging information.

Overall, I am very glad that I completed the MOOC in educational psychology. I would definitely encourage anyone contemplating a MOOC to go for it as there are courses for all ages and interests.

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