

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

Resource pack



Activity 1

WHAT'S MY LEARNING STYLE?

My learning style – 1

Tick as many of the statements in each of the groups that you think apply to you

Group A

- I like to listen to people talk about things
- I usually remember what I hear in class
- I would rather watch a film than read a book
- I prefer to be told what to do rather than have to go and find out for myself
- I would rather listen than speak

Group B

- When I read I see the story in my head like a film
- If I have to spell a difficult word, I see it in my head first
- I have a good memory and can easily see past events in my mind
- If I look at a picture I can remember lots of details about it for quite a while afterwards
- I would rather look at a picture than hear about it

Group C

- I find it really hard to sit still and study
- If I've got a problem to solve, I move around a lot while I think about it
- I would rather learn by doing something than reading a book about it
- I like going out and about and visiting places of interest
- I prefer practical exercises to any other sort of classroom activity

Group D

- If I need to remember something I write it down
- I can write better than I can speak
- I like to copy notes from the whiteboard or a book
- I rewrite my notes more neatly after a lesson, as I understand them better the second time around
- I usually take notes when I read a book or when a teacher gives a talk

Group E

- I would rather read something for myself than be told about it
- I like to read as often as I can
- I would rather read about a subject than watch a TV programme about it
- I can usually follow written instructions quite well
- I always read what my teachers write on my work

Group F

- I often talk to myself when I'm trying to work something out
- If I say something out loud, it is easier for me to remember
- I speak better than I write
- I love talking to people on the phone
- I learn best when I talk things through with other people

Write down the number of boxes you ticked in each group and then look at 'My learning style – 2' to see what these choices might say about you.

In Group A I ticked _____ boxes

In Group B I ticked _____ boxes

In Group C I ticked _____ boxes

In Group D I ticked _____ boxes

In Group E I ticked _____ boxes

In Group F I ticked _____ boxes

Also answer these

I didn't tick any boxes in Group/s _____

I ticked all the boxes in Group/s _____

My learning style – 2

- **Group A:** If you ticked three or more of these you learn well by listening to others and hearing things
- **Group B:** If you ticked three or more of these you learn well by seeing or visualising things
- **Group C:** If you ticked three or more of these you learn well by doing things and being practical
- **Group D:** If you ticked three or more of these you learn well by writing things down
- **Group E:** If you ticked three or more of these you learn well by reading things for yourself
- **Group F:** If you ticked three or more of these you learn well by talking and speaking about things with other people

More than likely, you have chosen a mixture of these.

So, putting all this information together – how would you describe your learning style?

Share this with a trusted classmate, someone who knows you quite well.

Do they agree with your assessment of yourself?

Activity 2

THINKING ABOUT MYSELF

Hobbies, interests and things I like to do

Are you a go getting, always on the go person with loads of hobbies and interests, or are you happy just to sit in front of your TV or computer screen all day without moving unless you really have to?

Look at these 20 statements and tick as many that you think apply to you.

- 1** I like doing all sorts of sports and being generally active
- 2** I loathe exercise – leave me alone!
- 3** I like doing things around the house and can fix anything
- 4** I don't like doing anything much
- 5** I like music and could listen to it all day
- 6** I like to play my musical instrument
- 7** I like to draw/paint/take photographs
- 8** I like visiting places of interest
- 9** I like travelling
- 10** I am really into my computer games and surfing the net
- 11** I like reading
- 12** I often go to the library
- 13** I like writing stories/plays/poetry
- 14** I like going out with my friends
- 15** I mostly prefer my own company
- 16** I've got lots of hobbies and interests to keep me occupied
- 17** I like to sit quietly and think a lot
- 18** I like looking after people
- 19** I get really bored at home
- 20** I'd much rather be at school

What this says about me

Look at the ones you have ticked. What do they say about you? Does this have any implications for the options you choose now and what you might want to do in the future? (You might want to talk this through with a trusted classmate before writing anything down).

Activity 3**SELLING YOURSELF****Accentuate the positive**

It's important when you apply to a college, university or go for a job, to accentuate your positive characteristics – that means concentrating on all the good things about you. Below are a couple of examples of people who have listed 10 good things about themselves:

Donna

- 1** Kind and gentle
- 2** Good sense of humour
- 3** Approachable and easy to talk to
- 4** Good with people of all ages
- 5** Can communicate well
- 6** Perceptive about other people's needs
- 7** Intelligent and able to work things out
- 8** A good listener
- 9** Able to diffuse difficult situations
- 10** Quick learner

Tom

- 1** Physically strong, fit and healthy
- 2** Inner strength and confidence
- 3** Good in a crisis
- 4** Can think on feet
- 5** Quick witted and funny
- 6** Honest
- 7** Practical
- 8** Good with numbers
- 9** Patient
- 10** Likeable

Now write 10 positive things about yourself. It's not always as easy to do as you might think, so if you get stuck, ask your friends and family to help you out.

1	_____
2	_____
3	_____
4	_____
5	_____
6	_____
7	_____
8	_____
9	_____
10	_____

Of these 10, which one would you say is your very best quality and why?

Characters and careers

You should now have 10 positive characteristics (good things) written about Donna, Tom and yourself.

Which three of the careers listed below do you think you are all best suited for and why? (You can list the same careers and reasons for all three of you if you want).

You	Donna	Tom
1	1	1
2	2	2
3	3	3

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| ■ Accountant | ■ IT Consultant | ■ Politician |
| ■ Banker | ■ Journalist | ■ Psychologist |
| ■ Childcare Worker | ■ Lawyer | ■ Radiographer |
| ■ Counsellor | ■ Librarian | ■ Sales Assistant |
| ■ Dentist | ■ Model | ■ Soldier |
| ■ Doctor | ■ Night Porter | ■ Surgeon |
| ■ Engineer | ■ Nurse | ■ Tax Inspector |
| ■ Farmer | ■ Optician | ■ Teacher |
| ■ Gardener | ■ Paramedic | ■ Undertaker |
| ■ Hotel Manager | ■ Physiotherapist | ■ Vet |

Share your answers with someone else and talk about your decisions.

Activity 4

JARGON-BUSTING TEST

Can you remember what these acronyms and abbreviations mean?
Try our multiple choice jargon-busting test to find out.

Abbreviation – the short form of a word

Acronym – a word made up from the first letters of a phrase or title and used as a way of shortening the original.

A level stands for

- a) Admissions level
- b) Attainment level
- c) Advanced level

BA stands for

- a) Bachelor of Arts
- b) Bachelor of Archaeology
- c) Bad Attitude

BEd stands for

- a) Bachelor of Editing
- b) Big Education Diplomas
- c) Bachelor of Education

BEng stands for

- a) Bad English
- b) Bachelor of English
- c) Bachelor of Engineering

BSc stands for

- a) Back to School
- b) Bachelor of Schools
- c) Bachelor of Science

BTEC stands for

- a) Business and Technician Education Council
- b) Big Tariffs and Educational Certificates
- c) Big Text and Email Council

DipHE stands for

- a) Dippy Heads
- b) Diploma of Historical Education
- c) Diploma of Higher Education

E-learning stands for

- a) Exciting learning
- b) Email learning
- c) Electronic learning

FE stands for

- a) The metal iron
- b) Fast Education
- c) Further Education

HE stands for

- a) Higher Education
- b) High rise Education
- c) Heavy Education

HNC stands for

- a) Horribly Naughty Children
- b) Higher National Certificate
- c) Higher Nutrition Certificate

IELTS stands for

- a) Impossible English Language Tests
- b) International English Language Testing System
- c) Incredible English Language Testing Systems

ITT stands for

- a) Initial Teacher Training
- b) Information Technology Training
- c) Initial Toffee Trials

KS stands for

- a) Kisses
- b) Key Schools
- c) Key Stage

LLB stands for

- a) Law and Laws for Bachelors
- b) Bachelor of Law
- c) Last Lesson Bell

MFL stands for

- a) Mild Flu
- b) Moderately Funny Languages
- c) Modern Foreign Language

NUS stands for

- a) Northern United States
- b) Nothing under the Sun
- c) National Union of Students

NVQ stands for

- a) Not Very Quiet
- b) National Vocal Qualification
- c) National Vocational Qualification

PGCE stands for

- a) Plenty of General Certificates in Excitement
- b) Particularly Gifted Children in Education
- c) Postgraduate Certificate in Education

UCAS stands for

- a) Universities and Colleges Admissions Service
- b) Unpleasant Colleges and Schools
- c) Universal College and Science Service

Answers on page 20

Activity 5

MIXED-UP PEOPLE

Unscramble these letters to find out the titles of 10 people connected with university life. Clue: they are all listed in the A-Z jargon buster.

Answers on page 20

1. MISSION DASTUTOR

2. GRADEUNDERUAT

3. POSTUATGRADE

4. CLERRUTE

5. SHERREF

6. ATEUDRAG

7. PERT TOURS LOAN

8. FESSORPRO

9. FREEREE

10. DENTUST

Activity 6

FIND THE MISSING JARGON

Fill in the missing words. We have listed them on the bottom of the page for you, but not in the right order. Cross them out as you use them. **Answers on page 20**

- 1** The _____ Office handles the applications from prospective _____ and deals with their enrolment into the _____ or college.
- 2** The Admissions _____ will decide whether or not you will be _____ a place at the university or college of your _____.
- 3** An _____ is a piece of work you must hand in by a given date for marking and grading.
- 4** The International _____ is widely recognised by universities around the _____.
- 5** A Bursary is a _____ award, grant or _____ offered to some students.
- 6** A _____ University is one where everything is located on one _____.
- 7** Clearing is about matching the right _____ to the right _____ or college.
- 8** A _____ can be very _____, from 10,000 words to as many as 80,000 words.
- 9** A _____ is a short course taken as part of some degree programmes; some are compulsory and some are _____.
- 10** _____ is where you copy someone else's work and pretend that it is all your own.

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| ■ Admissions | ■ long | ■ site |
| ■ assignment | ■ module | ■ students |
| ■ Baccalaureate | ■ offered | ■ tutor |
| ■ Campus | ■ optional | ■ university |
| ■ choice | ■ person | ■ university |
| ■ dissertation | ■ Plagiarism | ■ world |
| ■ financial | ■ scholarship | |

Activity 7**KNOW YOUR MFLs**

Modern Foreign Languages is a popular subject at university and often involves international travel and a Year Abroad.

Here are some fun things to do with words and phrases based on our Jargon Buster but written in other languages.

University by any other name

All the phrases below (1–4) say ‘the University’ but can you match the phrase to its language (A–D)?

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|------------|
| 1 l’université | _____ | A. Italian |
| 2 die Universität | _____ | B. French |
| 3 la Universidad | _____ | C. German |
| 4 l’università | _____ | D. Spanish |

The what?

Can you guess what particular place at university these foreign phrases all refer to?

bureau d’admissions – French
 toelatings bureau – Dutch
 Aufnahmebüro – German
 Ufficio di ammissioni – Italian
 la oficina de admisión – Spanish

They all refer to the _____.

True or false?

- 1** ‘nichtgraduierter Kursteilnehmer’ is German for ‘undergraduate student’
- 2** ‘Une longue dissertation’ is French for ‘A long dissertation’
- 3** ‘Geben Sie Ihre Arbeit ab’ is German for ‘Hand in your assignment’
- 4** ‘Neem een cursus van de Stichting’ is Norwegian for ‘Take a Foundation course’
- 5** ‘Università di educazione più permanente’ is Italian for Further Education college
- 6** ‘Un prospecto’ is Japanese for ‘a prospectus’

Answers on page 20

Activity 8**IT ALL ADDS UP**

Do the maths, turn the numbers into letters and find the eight-letter word.

1 $10 \times 3 \div 2 - 12 =$

2 $6 \div 2 \times 8 \div 2 =$

3 $6 + 2 - 3 =$

4 $100 \div 10 - 9 =$

5 $6 \times 6 \div 2 =$

6 $81 \div 9 =$

7 $3^2 + 2^2 + 1 =$

8 $60 - 10 \div 5 - 3 =$

Use this table to work out the letters

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

The word is _____

What does it mean? _____

Answers on page 21

Activity 9**MAPPING IT OUT**

Put these six cities in their right locations on the map.

- 1** Birmingham
- 2** Bristol
- 3** Leeds
- 4** Liverpool
- 5** Manchester
- 6** Sheffield

What do they have in common?

Answers on page 21

Activity 10

ORDER OUT OF CHAOS

Put these groups in the right order to show how you might progress through the education system in each case.

The place

- Reception Class _____
- Key Stage 2 Junior _____
- Nursery or Pre-school _____
- Key Stage 4 Secondary _____
- Further Education _____
- Key Stage 1 Infant _____
- Higher Education _____
- Key Stage 3 Secondary _____

The person

- University postgraduate student _____
- Secondary pupil _____
- Infant pupil _____
- College student/sixth former _____
- University undergraduate student _____
- Junior pupil _____

The qualification

- Doctorate/PhD _____
- A level _____
- Masters degree _____
- GCSE _____
- Bachelor degree _____
- AS level _____

Answers on page 21

Activity 11**WORDS WITHIN WORDS****Undergraduate**

Which of these 10 words cannot be made up from the letters in **Undergraduate**?

- 1** Under
- 2** Graduate
- 3** Grade
- 4** Udder
- 5** Great
- 6** Undue
- 7** Read
- 8** Reading
- 9** Greet
- 10** Render

The word is _____

Administration

Which of these 10 words cannot be made up from the letters in **Administration**?

- 1** Station
- 2** Start
- 3** Mind
- 4** Strata
- 5** Into
- 6** Taint
- 7** Tint
- 8** List
- 9** Dart
- 10** Drama

The word is _____

Put the two words together and you have _____

- What is it?
- Why shouldn't you go out and get everything on it?

Answers on page 22

Activity 12

5, 4, 3, 2, 1

Write down 5 things you have found out about the University of Birmingham from looking at the A-Z jargon buster

- 5** _____
- 4** _____
- 3** _____
- 2** _____
- 1** _____

Write down the 4 most common forms of plagiarism

- 4** _____
- 3** _____
- 2** _____
- 1** _____

You will find the answer by visiting the University of Birmingham's web page on Plagiarism at: www.as.bham.ac.uk/study/support/sca/plagguide.shtml

Write down 3 types of Bachelor degree

- 3** _____
- 2** _____
- 1** _____

Write down 2 types of Masters degree

- 2** _____
- 1** _____

Write down 1 piece of work you are expected to do at a university

- 1** _____

Answers on page 22

Activity 13**20 TALKING POINTS**

- 1** What is the difference between **Further Education** and **Higher Education**?
- 2** What is the difference between a **Single Honours** and a **Joint Honours**?
- 3** What is the difference between an **Admissions Tutor** and a **Personal Tutor**?
- 4** What is the difference between **core modules** and **optional modules**?
- 5** What is the difference between a **Sandwich Course** and a **Foundation Programme**?
- 6** What might be the advantages and disadvantages of going to a **Campus University**?
- 7** What might be the advantages and disadvantages of taking a **Gap Year**?
- 8** What might be the advantages and disadvantages of **studying abroad**?
- 9** What might be the advantages and disadvantages of **living on-** or **living off-**campus while at university?
- 10** What might be the advantages and disadvantages of going to an **old university**?
- 11** What might be the advantages and disadvantages of going to a **modern/new university**?
- 12** What might be the advantages and disadvantages of going to a **university** at all?
- 13** What might be the advantages and disadvantages of **E-learning**?
- 14** What is a **Tariff**?
- 15** What is the purpose of **Freshers' Week / Welcome Week**?
- 16** What is the purpose of **Open Days**?
- 17** What do **Student Unions** do?
- 18** What does a **referee** do for you?
- 19** How can you avoid **plagiarism**?
- 20** Why shouldn't you run out and buy everything on a **reading list** if you are sent one?

Answers to Activities 4 – 12

Activity 4: Multiple choice jargon busting test

A level = c)	Advanced level
BA = a)	Bachelor of Arts
BEd = c)	Bachelor of Education
BEng = c)	Bachelor of Engineering
BSc = c)	Bachelor of Science
BTEC = a)	Business and Technician Education Council
DipHE = c)	Diploma of Higher Education
E-learning = c)	Electronic learning
FE = c)	Further Education
HE = a)	Higher Education
HNC = b)	Higher National Certificate
IELTS = b)	International English Language Testing System
ITT = a)	Initial Teacher Training
KS = c)	Key Stage
LLB = b)	Bachelor of Law
MFL = c)	Modern Foreign Language
NUS = c)	National Union of Students
NVQ = c)	National Vocational Qualification
PGCE = c)	Postgraduate Certificate in Education
UCAS = a)	Universities and Colleges Admissions Service

Activity 5: Mixed-up people

1. Admissions Tutor
2. Undergraduate
3. Postgraduate
4. Lecturer
5. Fresher
6. Graduate
7. Personal Tutor
8. Professor
9. Referee
10. Student

Activity 6: Missing jargon

1. The Admissions Office handles the applications from prospective students and deals with their enrolment into the university or college.
2. The Admissions tutor will decide whether or not you will be offered a place at the university or college of your choice.
3. An assignment is a piece of work you must hand in by a given date for marking and grading.
4. The International Baccalaureate is widely recognised by universities around the world.
5. A Bursary is a financial award, grant or scholarship offered to some students.
6. A Campus University is one where everything is located on one site.
7. Clearing is about matching the right person to the right university or college.
8. A dissertation can be very long, from 10,000 words to as many as 80,000 words.
9. A module is a short course taken as part of some degree programmes; some are compulsory and some are optional.
10. Plagiarism is where you copy someone else's work and pretend that it is all your own.

Activity 7: Know your MFLs

University by any other name

1 B, 2C, 3D, 4A

The what?

They all refer to the Admissions Office

True or False?

1. True
2. True
3. True
4. False – it's Dutch for Take a foundation course
5. True
6. False – it's Spanish for 'a prospectus'

Activity 8: It all adds up

1 = 3 = C

2 = 12 = L

3 = 5 = E

4 = 1 = A

5 = 18 = R

6 = 9 = I

7 = 14 = N

8 = 7 = G

The word is clearing

Clearing means putting the right person in the right place at the right time; it is a system operated by UCAS in August that matches the student to a suitable university (or other institution) and degree programme.

Activity 9: Mapping it out

All six universities are redbrick 'civic' universities founded in the industrial cities of England in the Victorian era, achieving university status before WWII.

Activity 10 – Order out of chaos**The place**

Nursery or Pre-school

Reception Class

Key Stage 1 Infant

Key stage 2 Junior

Key Stage 3 Secondary

Key Stage 4 Secondary

Further Education

Higher Education

The person

Infant pupil

Junior pupil

Secondary pupil

College student/Sixth former

University undergraduate student

University postgraduate student

The qualification

GCSE

AS level

A level

Bachelor degree

Masters degree

Doctorate/PhD

Activity 11: – Words within words

You cannot get the word **reading** from Undergraduate
You cannot get the word **list** from Administration

Put the two words together and you have reading list

A reading list is a list of books and other material you are expected to read in preparation for your degree course or programme

You shouldn't rush out and buy everything on it in advance as it would be expensive and you can probably access them first through libraries and second-hand book shops; if you're not sure, check with your chosen university before doing anything.

Activity 12: – 5, 4, 3, 2, 1

5 things about the University of Birmingham

You could have any of the following

1. Birmingham is a campus university (It has two campuses; one in Edgbaston and one in Selly Oak)
2. It is a civic university so it must have been established in the 19th or early 20th century because it was a big city and a major industrial area
3. Birmingham's Student Union is known as The Guild of Students
4. Birmingham has a web page about plagiarism at www.as.bham.ac.uk/study/support/sca/plagguide.shtml
5. Birmingham produces printed and online prospectuses
6. Birmingham is a redbrick university
7. Birmingham is a research-led university
8. It is a member of the Russell Group
9. Birmingham has e-learning, and enquiry-led learning
10. Birmingham has a Virtual Learning environment

4 most common forms of plagiarism are:

1. cut/copy and paste material from the Web
2. copying the work of another student
3. copying course material or lecture notes
4. copying material out of a textbook or journal

3 types of Bachelor degree

You could have any of the following:

BA, BEd, BMus, BEng, BSc, LLB

2 types of Masters degree

You could have any of the following:

MA, MEd, MEng, MSc, MBA, MPhil, LLM

1 piece of work you are expected to do

You could have assignment or dissertation; you may also have picked up presentation, exam and project

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Δimhigher™

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