

STUDENT TASK

Introduction

In this assessment, you will conduct comprehensive psychological research with guidance.

There are three tasks in this assessment. Prior to Task A your group will decide on your research idea from [this document](#).

Task A: Research Proposal

[This task can be done in groups.]

Once your group has selected a research idea from [this document](#), complete the following Research Proposal. Once you have completed your proposal, you will meet with your teacher to discuss your research. Your Research Proposal is due **[insert date]**.

1. Give a brief overview of research and theories related to the psychological concept/s in your chosen study. Include sources.

2. Identify the aim of your research:

3. Identify the hypothesis:

[Note - not all research methods will require variables. This should be adapted if appropriate]

4. Identify the variables:

Independent variable:

Dependent variable:

Extraneous variables:

5. What sampling method will you use? Select one:

- Random sampling - all people in your target population have an equal chance of being selected for this study
- Opportunity sampling - you will only use people who are available at the time
- Volunteer sample - participants will volunteer to take part in your study

Why have you chosen to use this sampling method?

6. How will you organise your participants? Select one:

- Independent measures - participants will only do one experimental condition
- Repeated measures - participants will do all experimental conditions

[Note - this will not be applicable to all research designs. Adapt if not applicable]

Why have you chosen to use this research design?
7. Identify the materials /equipment you will use:
8. Identify the research method you will use:
Why have you chosen to use this research method rather than any other research method?
9. Explain how you will ensure that the following ethics are protected: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Avoiding deception ● Right to withdraw ● Informed consent ● Protection from harm (physical and psychological) ● Confidentiality and privacy ● Debriefing
10. Give a step-by-step procedure for your research.

[When teachers meet with students to discuss their research, they might give feedback and ask critical questions. Teachers may also require students to complete a practice run to ensure they know their roles etc. Once the Research Proposal is complete, teachers may assist by sending out permission emails via KAMAR and supporting students with their materials sourcing/creation.]

Task B: Research Practical

[This task can be done in groups.]

Conduct your psychological research! Ensure that you comply with ethics and carefully record your data. Your teacher will supervise your research. Once you've completed your research, analyse your data by completing relevant calculations.

[Teachers should provide support here by setting up the research date/time, location, relevant materials, and participants. See the section [Preparing for the Research Practical](#) in the Teacher Guidance resource.]

Part C: Report

This is an individual task. You may decide to complete this as a written or oral report. Use the following template.

The Introduction and Method are due **[insert date here - this can be completed prior to Part B]**. Your final report, including the Results and Discussion, is due **[insert date here]**.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Introduction is to provide a rationale for your research study. Start by explaining the general topic and introduce any key theories/ideas and previous research. The Introduction will end with the Aim and Hypothesis for *your* study.

Key idea(s)
Describe the key idea(s) of [insert here] .
Key theory
Explain at least one relevant theory.
Previous research study:
[Teachers may provide a summary of relevant research studies to support students]
Summarise the research:
What does this study suggest about the key theory/ideas?
Previous research study:
Summarise the research:
What does this study suggest about the key theory/ideas?

Your research

Aim: <i>the purpose of the research</i>
Hypothesis: <i>prediction</i>

METHOD

In the Method section, you will focus on four key elements of your research: design, ethics, participants, and procedure. By the end of this section, any researcher should be able to pick up your Method and replicate your research!

DESIGN

Research method

[Note - this section may be adapted to reflect the research method used. The example below is focused on an experimental method]

What type of experiment will you be conducting? Select one:

- Lab experiment - an experiment that is conducted in a controlled environment in which the IV is purposefully manipulated by the experimenter
- Field experiment - an experiment conducted in natural (real-life) conditions in which the IV is purposefully manipulated by the experimenter
- Natural experiment - an experiment conducted in natural (real-life) conditions in which the IV is naturally manipulated

M/E - Justify why you chose this research method.

Explain the strengths/advantages of your chosen method (Merit) and compare them to the weaknesses/disadvantages of one other method (Excellence).

Variables

[Note - not all research methods will require variables. This should be adapted if appropriate]

Independent variable (IV)
What is the variable that is being manipulated/changed?

The independent variable (IV) is...

Dependent variable (DV)
a. What is the variable that is being measured?
b. How will you measure it?

The dependent variable (DV) is...

Extraneous variables (EV)
a. Identify two variables that *could* interfere with your study.
b. How might these EV affect your results?
c. How will you try and prevent/control these EV?

Two possible extraneous variables are...

ETHICS

Ethical issues

How will you meet these ethical guidelines?

Avoiding Deception	
Right to Withdraw	
Informed Consent	
Protection from Harm	
Confidentiality and Privacy	
Debriefing	

PARTICIPANTS

Sampling

What sampling method will you use? Select one:

- Random sampling - all people in your target population have an equal chance of being selected for this study
- Opportunity sampling - you will only use people who are available at the time
- Volunteer sample - participants will volunteer to take part in your study

M/E - Justify why you chose this sampling method.

Explain the strengths/advantages of your chosen method (Merit) and compare them to the weaknesses/disadvantages of one other method (Excellence).

Participant details

This section will be completed AFTER you have conducted your research. You will summarise relevant participant and demographic details, e.g. total number of participants, age range, gender range, and ethnicities (if relevant).

Research design

[Note - this will not be applicable to all research designs. Adapt if not applicable]

How will you organise your participants? Select one:

- Independent measures - participants will only do one experimental condition
- Repeated measures - participants will do all experimental conditions

M/E - Justify why you chose this research design.

Explain the strengths/advantages of your chosen method (Merit) and compare them to the weaknesses/disadvantages of the other method (Excellence).

PROCEDURE

Write a detailed, step-by-step description of the procedure. This can be bullet-pointed.

Step 1:

Materials

What are the materials needed for your research? Include links to relevant websites/documents. These can be bullet-pointed.

RESULTS

Following your research, you will interpret the raw data. You should not include the raw data in your report.

Table:

Graph:

Describe your results. Include relevant statistical data.

DISCUSSION

The Discussion is the final part of your report. For Achieved, you will relate your findings to the hypothesis. For Merit and Excellence, you will further critique the validity and reliability of your research and relate your findings to previous research.

Write a statement: was the hypothesis supported or not supported?

Explain what your results tell us about [concept/theory].

The remainder of this template will take you through the final requirements for Merit and Excellence.

Relate your findings to the research you described in the Introduction. Were your results similar or dissimilar? Explain why.

VALIDITY

Population validity

Did our research reflect the general population (can our findings be generalised to other populations)? Explain.

Our research demonstrated [low / high] population validity.

Ecological validity

Did our research reflect real-life settings/situations? Were there demand characteristics present? Explain.

Our research demonstrated [low / high] ecological validity.

RELIABILITY

Reliability refers to the consistency of a research study or tests

How consistent is your study or measuring device? Will it produce similar results if used again in similar circumstances?

REFERENCES

Include a reference list here (links to websites are acceptable). You may attempt to use APA formatting - you will find more information [here](#).