Psychology Stage 2
Work Samples

So you were thinking........ Psychology looks good – what’s that like?

Personality is best described as:

a. a set of thoughts which occur at an unconscious level and cannot be seen.
b. a set of feelings which occur at an unconscious level and cannot be seen.
c. a set of characteristics which determines our thoughts, feelings and behaviour in a variety of situations.
d. A set of thoughts and feelings observed in a limited range of situations.


Which of the following statements best describes abnormal behaviour?

a. an individual difference
b. an individual's personal view of whether or not their behaviour is abnormal
c. behaviour that is illegal in any society
d. behaviour that is uncommon in a specific society or culture


Which of the following series of steps is the most appropriate sequence for conducting psychological research using scientific method?

a. design research method, collect data, formulate a hypothesis, analyse data, interpret data, report findings
b. construct a hypothesis, design research method, collect data, analyse data, interpret data, report findings
c. design research method, collect data, analyse data, interpret data, construct a hypothesis, report findings
d. construct a hypothesis, collect data, design research method, interpret data, analyse data, report findings


Which of the following describes sensory memory or short-term memory?

a. Information is forgotten in less than a second
b. Information can be stored indefinitely though a process of rehearsal
c. Information is stored as a virtually exact copy of the external message
d. Capacity is improved through chunking


- Distinguish between extraversion and introversion.
- What is the ‘nature versus nurture’ debate?
- What do psychologists mean by the word ‘socialisation’?
- With reference to Zimbardo’s experiment, explain using examples what obedience is and the effect it has on individual and group behaviour.
Using your understanding of sensation and perception, explain why you see something different after you have looked at the pictures for a while.


Phobias and Behavioural Therapy
Discuss your understanding of how phobias exist, and are treated including systematic desensitisation. Use two examples to explore your answer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theorists</th>
<th>PAVLOV</th>
<th>SKINNER</th>
<th>BANDURA</th>
<th>THORNDIKE</th>
<th>WATSON</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Type of Learning (1 mark each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Description of type of Learning (2 marks each)</td>
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<td>Description of the experiment or an application of this type of Learning (2 marks each)</td>
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Task 4: Research essay: Attitudes, racism and culture (15%)
Simple interpersonal contact is not sufficient to reduce prejudiced attitudes. Prejudice is most likely to be reduced when several factors are in effect.

This task requires you to consider the above statements while viewing the DVD, Remember the Titans. Based on your understanding of social psychology, and using examples from the DVD, write an essay explaining the factors contributing to the development of prejudice and the factors which reduce prejudice.
A researcher conducted an experiment to measure the effect of caffeine on a person’s ability to complete a jigsaw puzzle. One hundred university students aged between 20 and 25 years were randomly selected and allocated to one of two groups. The experiment was conducted over one day. Group 1 consumed a caffeine-based drink. Group 2 consumed a non-caffeine-based drink. After 30 minutes, participants from both groups were given the same simple jigsaw puzzle to complete. Participants were timed for this activity. The results are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Group Type</th>
<th>Mean Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group 1</td>
<td>caffeine group</td>
<td>10 seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 2</td>
<td>non-caffeine group</td>
<td>16 seconds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(a) State the hypothesis the researcher could have developed for this study. (1 mark)

It is hypothesised that the adult participants consuming the caffeine-based drink will complete a simple task (simple jigsaw) in a faster time than the adult participants consuming the non-caffeine based drink.

(b) Identify the independent and dependent variables. (2 marks)

IV: Whether or not the participant is consuming the caffeine or non-caffeine-based drink
DV: the participants' time for completing the simple jigsaw task.

(c) State the conclusion the researcher could draw from the results. (3 marks)

The results of the study are not statistically significant. The results DO NOT support the research hypothesis. The students cannot conclude anything about the effect of caffeine consumption on task performance because the statistical test shows that the mean times taken to complete the task in the two conditions are not significantly different.

Curriculum Council. (2009), Western Australian Certificate of Education External Examination Psychology Stage 2. Curriculum Council of Western Australia

- A large body of evidence suggests that factors related to family relationships, such as conflict, communication and closeness, are associated with a young person’s mental well-being. A psychology teacher, who is interested in the well-being of the students in his class, decides to look at this association amongst his students. He plans to ask his students to complete questionnaires about their family relationships and about their own emotional well-being.

    A number of ethical issues arise from a study such as this.

    - Identify two (2) important ethical issues that need to be considered.

Curriculum Council. (2008), Western Australian Certificate of Education External Examination Psychology Stage 2. Curriculum Council of Western Australia
Investigation: Examining Stereotypes in the Media

The background
The process of identifying a person as a member of a particular group because of the features they have in common is referred to as social categorisation. Stereotypes, a form of social categorisation, are based on opinions and ideas that may be used to make individuals seem more similar than they really are and may therefore act to place people in ‘boxes’. Stereotypes may be formed from our own impressions and experiences, as well as being influenced by others such as parents and friends. The media, in all its forms, may also play a role in the formation and strengthening of stereotypes.

This investigation will allow you to examine the prevalence of stereotypes in the media with a particular focus on the use of stereotypes in prime time (5 pm to 10 pm) television shows.

Your role
Your role in this investigation will be to:
- contribute to class and small group discussion about this investigation
- work independently to gather data for this investigation
- work productively with your group to analyse the collected data
- produce your own investigative write-up in the form of a report (approx. 1500 words).

INVESTIGATION NOTES:
Name: _____________________________
PLEASE ATTACH YOUR ABSTRACT ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER

INTRODUCTION
General background information/theories:

Past studies/research:

Aim:

Hypothesis: (if experimental study):

Independent variable(s): Dependent variable(s):

METHOD
Participants:

Materials:

RESULTS:

Table and/or graph:

Descriptive summary of the results (data):

DISCUSSION

Interpretation and explanation of the results (data):
Support or reject hypothesis:

Identify extraneous variables and how they might impact on the results:

Conclusion:

Curriculum Council (2008). Psychology Stage 2—Investigation: Examining stereotypes in the media Curriculum Council of Western Australia