



SAMPLE ASSESSMENT TASKS

PSYCHOLOGY
GENERAL YEAR 12

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Sample assessment task

Psychology – General Year 12

Task 2 – Unit 3

Assessment type: Investigation

Conditions

Period allowed for completion of the task:

- pre-test all participants prior to any information being provided (10 minutes)
- research mnemonic devices (30 minutes, plus out-of-class time)
- planning – group/class discussion (30 minutes)
- conducting the ethically approved investigation and collecting the data (20 minutes)
- scientific report to be written in class under supervised conditions (1 hour)

Task weighting

10% of the school mark for this pair of units

Do mnemonic devices improve memory?

(57 marks)

This investigation will focus on whether the use of a mnemonic device (memory aid), in this case narrative chaining, can be used to improve an individual's ability to recall a list of words. The use of narrative chaining will be compared with the use of maintenance rehearsal (rote learning) to remember a set of words.

Part 1: Pre-test (conducted prior to the distribution of assessment task)

- Students are given a list of 20 words to memorise in two minutes.
- A distractor exercise is used to divert attention away from the list of words.
- Students recall as many words as possible from the list.
- Results are collected anonymously (students could record an identity letter and the number of words recalled on a slip of paper).

Part 2: Research

The assessment task is now distributed.

Through class discussion and library research, make notes on the following:

- mnemonic devices, including a definition of mnemonic devices, a description of narrative chaining and a description of two other types of devices
- how mnemonic devices work in relation to cognition
- **one** research study that has been conducted.

Record your references.

Part 3: Planning

You will work in a small group to devise a method to test whether the use of a mnemonic device (memory aid), in this case narrative chaining, can be used to improve an individual's ability to recall a list of words. Consider the following factors:

- the participants in the investigation
- materials required for the investigation
- procedure to be used.

Part 4: Conducting

You will be involved in an ethically-approved investigation similar to the one you have planned. Participants will be tested to determine whether narrative chaining allows participants to remember a list of words more effectively than maintenance rehearsal (rote learning).

Data will be collected anonymously from the participants, collated and distributed at the end of the investigation.

Part 5: Scientific report

A scientific report based on this investigation will be written in class under test conditions. Come prepared with:

- collated data from the investigation
- list of references
- notes from your research (maximum one page).

Your scientific report will need to include:

Introduction (13 marks)

The introduction includes:

- background information about mnemonic devices
- relevant research
- the aim of the investigation
- an operational hypothesis.

Method (8 marks)

The method should be written briefly and clearly so that another researcher can follow your procedure. Include:

- a description of the participants
- materials used
- how the data will be collected and recorded
- important aspects of the procedure, such as ethical considerations.

Results (8 marks)

Results should be collated and represented in tables and graphs that are appropriate to the type of data. Include:

- titles and labels for tables and graphs
- appropriate data interpretation, e.g. mean score.

Provide an accurate summary of your data to compare the pre-test and post-test data.

Discussion (25 marks)

In your discussion, you should:

- discuss the results of the investigation
- relate the results to the hypothesis
- explain how the results relate to relevant psychological research/theories
- explain how at least **three** variables were controlled
- discuss **one** problem with the investigation and **one** way it could be overcome
- explain how you ensured reliability
- describe how at least **three** ethical issues were addressed
- discuss the relevance of the investigation to you, your peers and the community
- include a conclusion that links your hypothesis and your findings together.

References (3 marks)

Include at least **three** relevant references other than your textbook.

Marking key for sample assessment task 2 – Unit 3

Description	Marks
Introduction	
defines mnemonic devices	1
describes narrative chaining as a memory aid	1–2
describes two relevant examples of mnemonic devices used in aiding memory	1–2
explains how mnemonic devices aid memory	1–2
describes one relevant research study	1–2
describes the aim of the investigation	1–2
writes an operational hypothesis that describes a relationship between the independent variable and the dependent variable	1–2
Subtotal	13
Method	
describes participants in sufficient detail to be replicated, e.g. number, age, gender describes the selection process	1–2
describes materials in sufficient detail to be replicated includes word lists used in the investigation	1–2
describes the procedure, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • addresses anonymity • describes the process for allocating participants to groups and roles • describes task in sufficient detail to be replicated • describes the collection, collation and presentation of recall results 	1–4
Subtotal	8
Results	
organises all relevant data logically in correctly labelled tables <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • correctly organises tables • correctly labels tables, including units where appropriate • includes relevant data 	1–3
presents data in a graph <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • correctly graphs data • uses appropriate labelling • uses appropriate titles 	1–3
provides an accurate summary of the data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • describes pre-test data • describes post-test data 	1–2
Subtotal	8

Description	Marks
Discussion	
discusses the results of the investigation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> describes what happened in the investigation explains the difference between the two sets of data uses data from the investigation in explanations 	1–3
relates the results to the hypothesis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> states whether the data supports his/her hypothesis provides evidence using data from the investigation 	1–2
explains how the results relate to relevant psychological research/theories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> describes one research study relating to the study explains how the data from the investigation supports/relates to the study 	1–2
explains how the variables were controlled (2 marks per variable) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identifies three appropriate variables explains how each of these variables is controlled 	1–6
discusses one problem with the investigation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identifies one problem with the investigation describes the problem suggests one way of overcoming the problem 	1–3
explains steps taken to ensure reliability and how it could be improved <ul style="list-style-type: none"> explains steps taken to ensure reliability suggests one way that it could be improved 	1–2
describes how three ethical issues were addressed (e.g. confidentiality, voluntary participation, withdrawal rights, informed consent, deception, debriefing)	1–3
discusses relevance of the results to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the population from which the sample was drawn gives example/s 	1–2
includes a conclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> makes accurate conclusion/s relates to the hypothesis or research question 	1–2
Subtotal	25
References	
includes at least three relevant references	1–3
Subtotal	3
Total	57

Sample assessment task

Psychology – General Year 12

Task 6 – Unit 3

Assessment type: Project

Conditions

Period allowed for completion of the task: two weeks

Time will be allocated in class to complete the task

Task weighting

10% of the school mark for this pair of units

Effectiveness of a healthy lifestyle advertisement – Communication

(48 marks)

This task requires you to review two advertisements and create a Likert scale that can be used to measure how effective the advertisements are at persuading the viewer. Present your responses in a report.

To begin, view the two advertisements below. If you wish to review different advertisements, they will need to be approved by the teacher.

- Make Health Last. What will your last 10 years look like?
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qo6QNU8kHxI>
- Quit smoking
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6nuyl6kw6CM>

Part A

(42 marks)

Use the following questions to prepare your response.

1. For each of the following factors, explain how the factor is used to persuade an audience and explain how the advertisement was shaped: (27 marks)
 - a) gaining attention
 - b) the source of the message
 - c) nature of the communication
 - d) characteristics of the target audience.

Refer to psychological evidence, where applicable.

2. Define each of the following methods for data collection and describe **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of each: (15 marks)
 - a) qualitative
 - b) objective quantitative
 - c) subjective quantitative.

Part B**(6 marks)**

Create a Likert scale that can be used to measure the effectiveness of each advertisement. For your scale, make sure you include:

- an appropriate number of points on the scale
- relevant, clearly worded statements
- an appropriate number of positively and negatively worded statements
- appropriate scale descriptions, e.g. agreement, frequency, importance.

Marking key for sample assessment task 6 – Unit 3

1. For each of the following factors, explain how the factor is used to persuade an audience and explain how the advertisement was shaped:

Description	Marks
Gaining attention	
explains how the factor is used to persuade an audience	1–3
describes features of the factor used to persuade an audience	
briefly comments on some features of the factor used to persuade an audience	
explains how the advertisement was shaped by the factor	1–3
describes how the advertisement was shaped by the factor	
briefly describes some features of the advertisements with no link to the factor	
Subtotal	6
Source of the message	
explains how the factor is used to persuade an audience	1–3
describes features of the factor used to persuade an audience	
briefly comments on some features of the factor used to persuade an audience	
explains how the advertisement was shaped by the factor	1–3
describes how the advertisement was shaped by the factor	
briefly describes some features of the advertisements with no link to the factor	
Subtotal	6
Nature of the communication	
explains how the factor is used to persuade an audience	1–3
describes features of the factor used to persuade an audience	
briefly comments on some features of the factor used to persuade an audience	
explains how the advertisement was shaped by the factor	1–3
describes how the advertisement was shaped by the factor	
briefly describes some features of the advertisements with no link to the factor	
Subtotal	6
Characteristics of the target audience	
explains how the factor is used to persuade an audience	1–3
describes features of the factor used to persuade an audience	
briefly comments on some features of the factor used to persuade an audience	
explains how the advertisement was shaped by the factor	1–3
describes how the advertisement was shaped by the factor	
briefly describes some features of the advertisements with no link to the factor	
Subtotal	6
Psychological evidence	
detailed description of one or more examples of relevant psychological research	1–3
briefly refers to one or more examples of psychological research	
no supporting evidence	
Subtotal	3
Total	27

2. Define each of the following methods for data collection and describe **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of each:

Description	Marks
Qualitative	
defines data collection method	1
describes one advantage of the data collection method	1–2
lists one advantage of the data collection method	
describes one disadvantage of the data collection method	1–2
lists one disadvantage of the data collection method	
Subtotal	5
Objective quantitative	
defines data collection method	1
describes one advantage of the data collection method	1–2
lists one advantage of the data collection method	
describes one disadvantage of the data collection method	1–2
lists one disadvantage of the data collection method	
Subtotal	5
Subjective quantitative	
defines data collection method	1
describes one advantage of the data collection method	1–2
lists one advantage of the data collection method	
describes one disadvantage of the data collection method	1–2
lists one disadvantage of the data collection method	
Subtotal	5
Total	15

Part B

Create a Likert scale that can be used to measure the effectiveness of each advertisement.

Description	Marks
Likert scale includes a 5/7 point scale	1
Likert scale includes statements rather than questions	1
Likert scale includes an equal number of positively and negatively worded statements	1
statements are relevant to the topic	1
statements are clearly worded	1
the scale reflects the statements (e.g. agreement, frequency, importance, quality or likelihood)	1
Total	6

Sample assessment task

Psychology – General Year 12

Task 8 – Unit 4

Assessment type: Response

Conditions

Period allowed for completion of the task: one hour

In-class extended answer under supervised conditions

Task weighting

6% of the school mark for this pair of units

Essay – Social psychology

(21 marks)

“If you want to change a person, you’ve got to change the situation.”

Phillip Zimbardo

Evaluate Phillip Zimbardo’s quote with reference to group influences on behaviour. Use psychological evidence to support your response and refer to **three** of the following:

- the bystander effect
- conformity
- obedience
- compliance
- group polarisation.

In your response, include the following:

- an introduction to describe your response (3 marks)
- discuss **three** group influences on behaviour (18 marks)
 - identify the group influence and describe its influence on behaviour
 - discuss whether the behaviour supports Zimbardo's quote and use psychological evidence to support your argument.

Reference

Zimbardo, P. (2008, February). *The Psychology of Evil* [Video file]. Retrieved from

http://www.ted.com/talks/philip_zimbardo_on_the_psychology_of_evil

Marking key for sample assessment task 8 – Unit 4

Description	Marks
Introduction	
clearly outlines the direction of the essay, commenting on the merit of Zimbardo's quote with reference to the influence of the group on individual behaviour	1–3
comments on the merit of Zimbardo's quote with some links to the influence of the group on individual behaviour	
comments on the merit of Zimbardo's quote OR introduces the idea that groups have an influence on individual behaviour	
Subtotal	3
For each of the three group influences on behaviour	
clearly describes the behaviour or effect (up to 2 marks for each group influence)	1–6
briefly describes the behaviour or effect (1 mark for each group influence)	
explains whether the behaviour or effect supports Zimbardo's quote by referring to detailed description of supporting evidence (up to 4 marks for each group influence)	1–12
explains whether the behaviour or effect supports Zimbardo's quote by referring to a brief description of supporting evidence (up to 3 marks for each group influence)	
clearly describes relevant psychological evidence with no links to whether it supports Zimbardo's quote (up to 2 marks for each group influence)	
brief description of psychological evidence with no links to whether it supports Zimbardo's quote (1 mark for each group influence)	
Subtotal	18
Total	21