

Internal Assessment Resource

Psychology Level 1

This resource supports assessment against Achievement Standard 91840

Standard title: Demonstrate understanding of a psychological debate

Credits: 3

Resource title: Take it from me

**Resource reference:** Psychology 1.2B Version 1

This resource:

* Clarifies the requirements of the standard
* Supports good assessment practice
* Should be subjected to the school’s usual assessment quality assurance process
* Should be modified to make the context relevant to students in their school environment and ensure that submitted evidence is authentic

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| Authenticity of evidence | Teachers must manage authenticity for any assessment from a public source, because students may have access to the assessment schedule or student exemplar material.  Using this assessment resource without modification may mean that students’ work is not authentic. Teachers may need to change figures, measurements or data sources or set a different context or topic to be investigated or a different text to read or perform. |

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Teacher guidelines

The following guidelines are supplied to enable teachers to carry out valid and consistent assessment using this internal assessment resource.

Teachers need to be very familiar with the outcome being assessed by the achievement standard. The achievement criteria and the explanatory notes contain information, definitions, and requirements that are crucial when interpreting the standard and assessing students against it.

**Context/setting**

This activity requires students to demonstrate comprehensive understanding of a psychological debate. Prior to this assessment, students will have been taught the ‘nature-nurture debate’.

Suitable contexts for the ‘nature-nurture’ debate could include intelligence, criminality, and gender roles. You may like to provide a case study.

Examples of case studies include:

* Beyond The Darklands: The Mark Brothers
* Jim Fallon’s research into psychopaths <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/jun/03/how-i-discovered-i-have-the-brain-of-a-psychopath>
* David Reimer: The boy who was raised as a girl
* Charles Whitman: America’s first mass shooter
* The Dunedin Study, Criminality: Nature vs Nurture <http://www.listener.co.nz/current-affairs/social-trends/dunedin-study/>

You may also adapt the format required for the activity. Students might produce, for example, a speech, a newspaper front page, a web page, an oral or digital presentation.

**Conditions**

As a guide, assessment against this standard should reflect approximately 30 hours of teaching, learning and assessment, in and out of the classroom.

You could provide students with guidance on appropriate presentation styles and format. However, this achievement standard does not actually assess format, style, or research skills.

Conditions of Assessment related to this achievement standard can be found at <http://ncea.tki.org.nz/Resources-for-Internally-Assessed-Achievement-Standards>

**Resource requirements**

Students will need access to computers, the Internet, appropriate resources, and information from a variety of sources, such as: photographs, newspaper extracts, and/or notes from textbooks.

**Additional information**

None.

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Student instructions

**Introduction**

This assessment activity requires you to demonstrate your understanding of a psychological debate.

You are going to be assessed on your comprehensive understanding of the key arguments of the nature-nurture debate through the use of a case study and arrive at a conclusion which shows the importance of each side of the debate.

Teacher note: Insert due dates and time frames.

**Task**

Your teacher will have provided you with a case study. Use this case study and other evidence where necessary to demonstrate your understanding of the nature-nurture debate.

Provide evidence for both sides of the nature-nurture debate as it can be shown in the case study. Include:

* a brief description of the nature/nurture debate
* evidence that this case study example is due to the way the subjects were brought up (nurture)
* evidence that this case study example is due to biological factors (nature)
* descriptions of psychological theories or studies relevant to this debate
* an explanation of the importance of each side of the debate
* a thorough explanation of the interactions between the two sides of the nature-nurture debate (interactions could include, for example, conflicting or supporting ideas or evidence and how they combine to explain behaviour).

In discussion with your teacher, choose an appropriate presentation format for your findings (for example a speech, newspaper front page, a web page, an oral or digital presentation).

**Assessment Schedule: Psychology 91840 - Take it from me**

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| **Evidence/Judgements for Achievement** | **Evidence/Judgements for Achievement with Merit** | **Evidence/Judgements for Achievement with Excellence** |
| The student demonstrates understanding of a psychological debate by:   * describing the details of the key arguments   **For example (partial evidence):**  *In the case study of Jim Fallon, one finding was that some people in his family have a brain function that is linked to them being impulsive. He found that this brain function goes along with high aggression in his family. This suggests aggression could be caused by nature.*  *However, despite having these genetic traits Jim did not turn out to be violent. This provides evidence for support of the nurture side of the debate as Jim had a good upbringing.*  *The examples above are indicative samples only* | The student demonstrates, in-depth, understanding of a psychological debate by:   * explaining the key arguments of a psychological debate. The explanation includes descriptions of psychological theories or studies.   **For example (partial evidence):**  *In the case study of Jim Fallon, one finding from his brain scans was that some people have a brain function that is linked to more impulsive behaviours. He found evidence in the scans that his brain showed this brain function. One theory which explains this is that he inherited this brain function from his parents. This is supported by the fact that he found a documented history of criminal activity on his mother’s side of the family. This supports the nature side of the debate.*  *The examples above are indicative samples only* | The student demonstrates comprehensive understanding of a psychological debate by:   * giving a thorough explanation of the interaction of the key arguments of a psychological debate. The explanation will show the importance of each side of the debate.   **For example (partial evidence):**  *In the case study of Jim Fallon, one finding from his brain scans was that some people have a brain function that is linked to more impulsive behaviours. This supports the nature side of the debate. However, he found that these impulsive behaviours could be affected by good or bad experiences while growing up. This demonstrates it is not one nor the other side of the debate, but more of an interaction between nature (brain function) and family environment (nurture).*  *The examples above are indicative samples only* |

Final grades will be decided using professional judgement based on a holistic examination of the evidence provided against the criteria in the Achievement Standard.