Internal Assessment Resource

Psychology Level 1

This resource supports assessment against Achievement Standard 91841

Standard title: Demonstrate understanding of the methods used in psychological research

Credits: 4

Resource title: How did they find that out?

**Resource reference:** Psychology 1.3A 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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| Date version published by Ministry of Education | January 2017To support internal assessment from 2017 |
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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 their comprehensive understanding of at least three methods used in psychological research. This involves identifying and describing the different methods used in psychological research and providing information about the appropriateness of the methods to the situation and justifying the researchers’ choices.

You will provide students with summaries of different examples of psychological research. Students are required to select **three** summaries (each summary must use a different research method) and provide information based on these. Examples of research include:

* The year 10 ASH study in New Zealand (1997- current)
* Kathy Sylva The EPPE project (1997-2003)
* Watson & Rayner “Little Albert” (1920)
* Asch conformity study (1951)
* Festinger “Cult Study” (1956)
* Genie the “wild child” (1977)
* Sherif’s “Robbers Cave” study (1954)
* The New Zealand Attitudes and Values Study (2009 - current)
* Maryanne Garry, Photographs and false memories (2005)

*Sites where you can find other research:*

* Case studies from a New Zealand Psychologist <http://www.jenniogden.com/trouble_in_mind__stories_from_a_neuropsychologist_s_casebook_104472.htm>
* Māori and Psychology Research Unit <http://www.waikato.ac.nz/fass/research/centres-units/mpru>

**Conditions**

Assessment against this standard should reflect approximately 40 hours of teaching, learning and assessment, in and out of the classroom.

The students could work in groups but will be assessed individually.

You may want to give students guidance on the appropriate style and format for their findings. However, this achievement standard does not actually assess format or style.

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**

Summaries of research can be taken from the internet, textbooks, magazine articles, news articles or from abstracts of the original research.

**Additional information**

None.

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Student instructions

**Introduction**

This assessment activity requires you to select **three** pieces of psychological research and identify and describe the methods used in the psychological research.

You are going to be assessed on how thoroughly you explain the researchers’ choice of at least three methods used in psychological research, compare the different methods and justify why those methods were used.

Teacher note: Insert due dates and time frames.

**Task**

Select **three** pieces of psychological research from the summaries that have been provided by your teacher. Each summary must show a different research method.

Examples of research methods in psychology include:

* case studies
* experiments
* observations
* correlational research
* surveys.

For each summary:

* identify and describe the method used
* give a thorough explanation of the researchers’ choice of method and its appropriateness (how well does it suit the situation?)
* support your answer with evidence from the summary.

Using all three summaries compare the different methods and provide justifications for why each method was chosen.

Choose an appropriate presentation format for your findings.

**Assessment schedule: Psychology 91841 - How did they find that out?**

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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 at least three methods used in psychological research by identifying and describing each method.***For example (partial evidence of one method):***What are features of this study that make it a case study?*A case study is based on one individual or group that is studied in detail. It is an in depth examination and produces rich data. The case study method may collect information from: observations, tests, family members, interviews and often over a long time.**The examples above are indicative samples only* | The student demonstrates in-depth understanding of at least three methods used in psychological research by explaining the reasons and appropriateness of the researchers’ choice of methods used. ***For example (partial evidence of one method):***Why did the researcher/s choose to use this method to investigate their topic, for example, why does the method suit the situation?*The researchers chose this method as Genie was a unique case that presented itself as an opportunity to study something that could not be studied using an experiment. They were able to study her behaviour as a result of her upbringing. They were also aiming to help her recover from her horrific experiences, as clinical case studies generally try to treat an individual. It is suitable to the situation as the information gathered was based on and applicable to just one subject.**The examples above are indicative samples only* | The student demonstrates comprehensive understanding of at least three methods used in psychological research by giving a thorough explanation of the researchers’ choice of methods used in psychological research.The explanation includes a comparison of the different methods and a justification of why these methods were used.**For example (partial evidence of one method):***The researchers chose a case study in this situation as it is the most suitable to the situation. The case study was appropriate as Genie’s situation was unique. The main aim was to treat Genie and introduce her to regular life. Genie’s lack of language and experience of isolation and neglect were opportunities for researchers to investigate whether there was a critical period for language development. It would be extremely unethical, not to mention illegal, to raise a child in isolation as an experiment. Observations made up some of the data collection, but this was not the primary research method. This is why a case study was the most appropriate research method in this situation.**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.