
PSYCHOLOGY
Explore use of scientific method in
psychological research

level:	2
credit:	5
planned review date:	January 2005
replacement information:	This unit standard replaces unit standard 11684.
sub-field:	Social Science Studies
purpose:	People credited with this unit standard are able to: explore one scientific research method by examination of a given example; describe other scientific research methods used in psychological studies; and select the most appropriate research method for use in a given situation.
entry information:	Open.
accreditation option:	Evaluation of documentation by NZQA.
moderation option:	A centrally established and directed national moderation system has been set up by NZQA.
special notes:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1 This unit standard is intended as an introductory unit to the range of scientific methods used in psychological study. For the purpose of assessment of element 1, learners will be provided with an example of a psychological study, which will either be published or available in the public domain. A situation will be provided for element 3.2 Definition: <i>psychological study</i> could be a simplified version of a written paper, provided simulation(s), or a brief scientific study.

Elements and Performance Criteria

element 1

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Explore one scientific research method by examination of a given example.

Range: one of – experiment, survey, observation, case study.

performance criteria

- 1.1 The exploration identifies steps used in this particular study.
- 1.2 The exploration identifies features and uses of the research method of which this is an example.

element 2

Describe other scientific research methods used in psychological studies.

Range: the three methods not used in element 1.

performance criteria

- 2.1 The description includes an outline of key features of each method.
- 2.2 The description includes explanation of specific uses in psychological studies of each method.

element 3

Select the most appropriate research method for use in a given situation.

Range: one research method of - experiment, survey, observation, case study.

performance criteria

- 3.1 Selection is justified by explanation of why it suits the subject matter and intended outcomes of the study.

Comments on this unit standard

Please contact the NZQA National Qualifications Services nqs@nzqa.govt.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.

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Please Note

Providers must be accredited by the Qualifications Authority or a delegated inter-institutional body before they can register credits from assessment against unit standards or deliver courses of study leading to that assessment.

Industry Training Organisations must be accredited by the Qualifications Authority before they can register credits from assessment against unit standards.

Accredited providers and Industry Training Organisations assessing against unit standards must engage with the moderation system that applies to those standards.

Accreditation requirements and an outline of the moderation system that applies to this standard are outlined in the Accreditation and Moderation Action Plan (AMAP). The AMAP also includes useful information about special requirements for providers wishing to develop education and training programmes, such as minimum qualifications for tutors and assessors, and special resource requirements.

This unit standard is covered by AMAP 0226 which can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.