
PSYCHOLOGY
**Conduct a psychological observation
with guidance**

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| level: | 4 |
| credit: | 4 |
| final date for comment: | December 2008 |
| expiry date: | December 2009 |
| sub-field: | Social Science Studies |
| purpose: | People credited with this unit standard are, with guidance, able to: write a research proposal for a psychological observation; collect and analyse data; and report the psychological observation. |
| entry information: | Recommended: Unit 19261, <i>Explore use of scientific method in psychological research</i> and Unit 19247, <i>Describe the use of scientific method and simple statistics in psychological study</i> , or demonstrate equivalent knowledge and skills. |
| 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 For the purposes of this unit standard a learner must use a different research question from that used for unit standard 20654.2 The observation in this unit standard is conducted <i>with guidance</i>. The learner may use guidance only in choosing and planning the observation. The observation is to be completed without supervision.3 This level of guidance is required in the three unit standards at level 4 involving psychological experiment, survey and observation respectively. |

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- 4 Definitions
hypothesis refers to the research question to be answered in the observation;
psychological observation is the non-obtrusive observation of events in their natural setting. The researcher simply observes and records, without any manipulation of variables;
standard format for citation is that accepted by a psychological association, such as the APA referencing style.

Elements and Performance Criteria

element 1

Write a research proposal for a psychological observation.

performance criteria

- 1.1 Proposal summarises background literature which led to the development of the research question.
- 1.2 Proposal describes the research question/aims from which an hypothesis may be developed if appropriate.
- 1.3 Proposal describes the methodology and apparatus required to answer the research question.

Range: methodology to include - selection of sample; how, when, and where data are collected; appropriate questionnaire design.

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element 2

Collect and analyse data.

performance criteria

2.1 Data collection process is consistent with the defined research methodology.

Range: process may include but is not limited to - stages, design factors.

2.2 Data are recorded in a format that is consistent with the research methodology.

2.3 Data are analysed using influential statistics, in a manner consistent with the research methodology.

Range: statistical method, which may include but is not limited to t test, chi square, ANOVA.

element 3

Report the psychological observation.

performance criteria

3.1 Report is completed to format consistent with the research task.

Range: abstract, hypothesis, introduction, method, results, discussion, conclusion, references using standard format.

3.2 Method is reported in sufficient detail to allow replication of study.

3.3 Results are represented by text, graphs and/or tables consistent with the research task.

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- 3.4 Conclusions are based on the data collected, and related to the research question/aims.
- 3.5 Study's strengths and weaknesses are evaluated and possible refinements suggested.

Range: reliability, validity, ethical practice, methodology.

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.

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/site/framework/search.html>.