

91876R



Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

Level 3 Psychology 2024

91876 Analyse a significant issue in psychological practice

Credits: Three

RESOURCE BOOKLET

Refer to this booklet to answer the questions for Psychology 91876.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–3 in the correct order and that neither of these pages is blank.

YOU MAY KEEP THIS BOOKLET AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.

Case study A

Sarah is an 18-year-old student, who struggles with concentration, organisation, and anxiety. Her teacher has noticed these behaviours with other female students in the past and instructed Sarah's whānau to seek a diagnosis of ADHD*. In her initial consultation, Sarah's clinical psychologist** dismissed the possibility of ADHD because he did not acknowledge that women and men experience different symptoms.

Sarah sought a second opinion from another clinical psychologist who specialises in ADHD. She confirmed that Sarah does have ADHD. Sarah's psychologist explained that ADHD studies indicate that males often exhibit higher levels of hyperactivity and impulsivity, while females tend to display different behaviours, such as difficulty concentrating, challenges with organisation, and potential anxiety issues. This often leads to underdiagnosis of ADHD in women.

Case study B

Dr Emily Jones is an organisational psychologist* working for an American company that has offices worldwide, including in the United States (where Dr Jones lives), Japan, Brazil, and India. The company asked Dr Jones to investigate what motivates their employees across different countries. Her study focused on questions about individual success and praise, reflecting Western values.

The study revealed that employees from various cultural backgrounds had different priorities. Some valued teamwork and loyalty, while others prioritised work-life balance. However, Dr Jones ignored these differences, leading to her misinterpreting the findings.

The company implemented guidelines based on Dr Jones's findings, which did not suit everyone. Some employees felt unhappy with the changes, highlighting the importance of cultural understanding in workplace research.

Case study C

In the 1970s, a group of university students conducted research on rats. They were interested in the effects of stress on the rats' concentration when completing a maze to reach food. The researchers did not seek ethical approval before starting the study.

During the experiments, the bottom of the maze was electrified to increase the rats' stress levels, stimulating the stress response. This procedure caused significant distress and suffering for the animals involved.

The results demonstrated that stress significantly impacts concentration, and many of the rats eventually gave up and did not complete the maze. As a result, they died from starvation. The researchers generalised these results on the impacts of stress to humans, concluding that stress negatively affects concentration. This study was published in the *International Journal of Stress and Wellbeing*.



Acknowledgements

Material from the following sources has been adapted for use in this assessment:

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Case study A: (glossed definition) <https://www.adhd.org.nz/what-is-adhd.html>

<https://www.apa.org/education-career/guide/subfields/clinical/education-training>

Case study B: (glossed definition) <https://www.psychology.org.nz/members/networking/institutes/institute-organisational-psychology-iop>

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Case study C: (image) <https://stock.adobe.com/images/>

