

91876R



Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa  
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

## Level 3 Psychology 2025

### 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 none of these pages is blank.

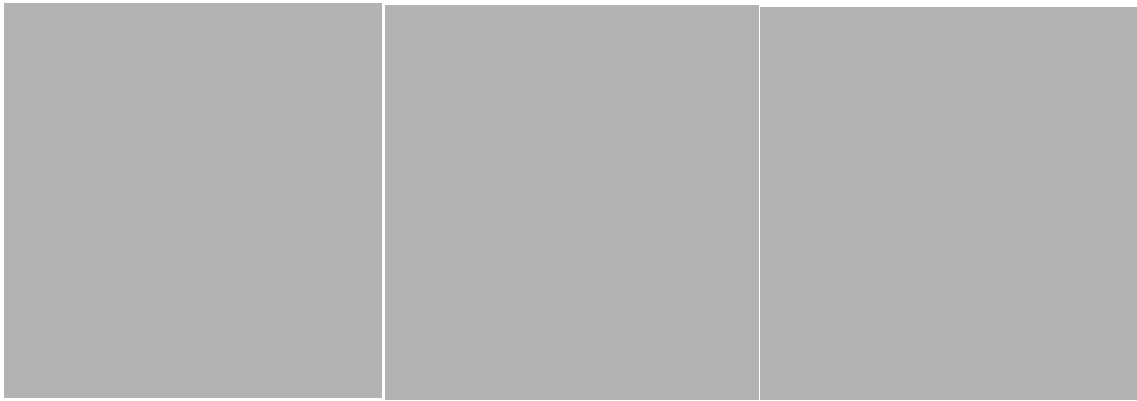
**YOU MAY KEEP THIS BOOKLET AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.**

### Case study A

Mata is a psychology researcher studying the development of attachment in children and how early relationships shape emotional and social outcomes. As he designs his study, he faces a dilemma: should he use animals as participants, and if so, which animals would provide useful evidence for understanding childhood attachment?

Using animals in research can be difficult because, even when they are closely related to humans, their behaviour may not be directly comparable to humans. Mata considers three options for his study: rhesus monkeys, rats, or dogs. Rhesus monkeys are often used in attachment research because they are highly social primates with caregiving behaviours similar to humans. In comparison, rats provide insight into brain structures and neurochemicals related to attachment.

Mata decides to use dogs because they share a similar brain system that helps with forming emotional bonds. While dogs can teach us about emotional connections, their behaviour might not perfectly match how humans form attachments.



Sources: (L to R) (monkey) <https://stock.adobe.com/images/100274800>  
(rat) <https://stock.adobe.com/images/94017765>  
(dog) <https://stock.adobe.com/images/65762430>

### Case study B

As part of her university psychology studies, Aroha participated in a study on learning, led by visiting international researchers. The aim of this study was to explore cross-cultural differences in learning by measuring participants' performance on a memory task and discussing their learning experiences in an interview.

Aroha found the memory task difficult, as it was based on Western concepts that did not reflect her Māori world view. During the interview, she spoke about the importance of kapa haka to her learning, explaining that it helped her feel connected to her culture, history, and community. However, the researcher dismissed her comments, stating that the study was focused on how she learned, not on her culture.

After the study, Aroha requested to review her interview responses for accuracy. She had learned in her Kaupapa Māori Psychology\* course that this was a respectful research practice, as it respected participants' mana\*\* by allowing them to have ownership of their contributions. The researcher refused, stating that the data belonged exclusively to the research team and could not be shared with participants. Aroha felt this response reflected a lack of cultural respect for her cultural identity and contributions to the study.

\* Kaupapa Māori Psychology: an approach to psychology based on Māori world views, values, and beliefs.

\*\* mana: a person's sense of dignity, respect, and authority.

### Case study C

Riley, a clinical psychologist\*, is supporting the well-being of employees at a company undergoing changes. This change process involves significant challenges, such as job losses and employees moving into unfamiliar roles. As part of her work, Riley interviews employees and reviews the company's stress management practices.\*\*

During this process, Riley noticed the stress management practices were based on outdated and stereotypical ideas about gender. Male employees were encouraged to participate in competitive team sports, based on the assumption that men cope with stress through confrontation or avoidance (a "fight-or-flight" response). In contrast, female employees were directed toward support groups focused on emotional sharing and group discussion, reflecting the stereotype that women manage stress by caring for others and building relationships (a "tend and befriend" response).

In her feedback to the company, Riley highlights that relying on these gender-based stereotypes is unfair and can negatively impact the well-being and work performance of the employees.

\* clinical psychologist: a psychology specialist who provides mental and behavioural health care for individuals, couples, families, and groups.

\*\* stress management practices: ways workplaces try to help employees management work-related stress and improve well-being.

