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91876



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Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

Level 3 Psychology 2025

91876 Analyse a significant issue in psychological practice

Credits: Three

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Analyse a significant issue in psychological practice.	Analyse, in depth, a significant issue in psychological practice.	Comprehensively analyse a significant issue in psychological practice.

Check that the National Student Number (NSN) on your admission slip is the same as the number at the top of this page.

You should attempt ALL parts of the task in this booklet.

Pull out Resource Booklet 91876R from the centre of this booklet.

If you need more room for any answer, use the extra space provided at the back of this booklet.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–11 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

Do not write in the margins (//////). This area will be cut off when the booklet is marked.

YOU MUST HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.

Achievement

TOTAL 3

Page 1

Make sure you have the paper Resource Booklet 91876R.

INSTRUCTIONS

Read ALL the case studies in the Psychology Resource Booklet 91876R.

Select one case study to answer ALL three parts of this examination.

Case study C ▾

PLANNING

TASK

(a) (i) Name the significant issue in psychological practice shown in your selected case study.

Gender Bias in Psychology

(ii) Explain how this issue is demonstrated in the selected case study.

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In my selected case study while a clinical psychologist is supporting the well-being of employees at a company undergoing changes she discovers that the stress management practices were based on outdated and stereotypical ideas about gender.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 (fight or flight). In contrast, female employees were directed towards support groups focused on emotional sharing and group discussion, reflecting the stereotype that women manage stress by caring for others and building relationships (tend and befriend).

The issue demonstrated in my selected case study is alpha bias, the exaggeration of the differences between men and women, as the company gave them different stress management practices based on the idea of men being strong and coping through being active, and women being weak and coping through bonds with other women.

Gender Bias in psychology has two forms, alpha bias and beta bias.

Alpha bias is the exaggeration of the differences between men and women where men are seen as the norm and women are seen as deficient and inferior. An example of alpha bias in psychology is Freud's psychosexual theory that concludes with women being inferior to men due to 'penis envy'.

Beta bias on the other hand is the minimisation of the differences between men and women where men and women are viewed as the same so an experiment can be done on all men and applied to everyone. An example of beta bias in psychology is Kohlberg's experiment on mental/emotional maturity where he experimented on 72 boys and no girls, concluding that women couldn't reach the same level as men.

Androcentrism is the idea that the male view is always right and basing studies on men.

(b) Discuss how this significant issue has affected psychological practice. Refer to the case study and psychological context(s) you have learned about.

Support your response with evidence from psychological theories and / or studies.

B I U     

Freud's psychosexual theory states that women will always be inferior to men because of 'penis envy', this shows the affect that alpha bias has had on psychology as it resulted in the mistreatment of women for centuries, downplaying their problems to a result of their inferiority.

In Kohlberg's experiment he studied 72 boys and applied the findings to all people as well as coming to the conclusion that women couldn't reach as high a level as men without even studying them. This shows the affect of beta bias on psychology as a psychological conclusion was made on women without even studying women and this also resulted in the unjustified mistreatment of women.

PPD which is experienced by 10-20% of women who have given birth wasn't recognised as separate to regular depression until the 1990's. PPD was one of the many things that women got prescribed bed rest for despite it being a serious issue, but as at the time only men were being studied (who obviously don't get PPD as they don't give birth) which meant that this was just seen as another deficiency of women.

Hysteria was a condition amongst women due to their biological weakness and some symptoms were anxiety, restlessness, and depression. It was claimed by scientists/psychologists that when a woman was hysterical it was because her uterus was wandering around within her body. Some of the prescriptions for the curing of hysteria were again bed rest, and intercourse, these insufficient prescriptions left women suffering with serious conditions untreated as all of their problems were reduced to their inferiority as women meaning that no one actually tried to find out what was going on and how to properly treat it.

The rest cure was the main prescription given to women for most things in the 1800's including both PPD and hysteria.

In the late 1900's an experiment was done opposing Kohlberg's, it claimed that women think differently, through their heart not justice. An experiment was then done with both men and women. The experiment can be alpha biased as it sort of exaggerates the differences between men and women.

In androcentrism the male view/opinion on science/health is correct always.

In the case study we see the affects of alpha bias on psychology through the different treatment based on stereotype for the men and women in the company.

(c) Propose solutions to address the significant issue. At least one solution should be clearly linked to the case study.

Use evidence from relevant psychological theories, concepts, and / or studies to support your suggestions.

B I U     

Psychology by women for women would result in the proper research of female that we have been lacking since forever and would result in the decrease of bias within psychology because rather than studies being done on men and applied to everyone (beta bias) or women being treated as inferior (alpha bias) you would have studies on men and studies on women which would have both as their own norm and not base one off the other as women and men are different but not in the way stated in alpha bias, neither is inferior they just have separate issues that need to be studied separately and having more women in the field would help with that. This solution would help prevent situations such as the one in case study C as it would reduce the biased assumptions based off stereotypes when giving solutions for both men and women and result in the proper studies of how to help stress.

Having more women in leadership roles is also important because whilst the number of women in psychology is increasing the leadership roles are still male dominated. Having more women in leadership roles would help reduce gender bias in psychology because it would mean that rather than just men deciding what is to be studied and where the funding will go men and women can both make these decisions which could lead to more studies of women.

Another barrier to do with the issue of gender bias in psychology is the excuse of women being biologically inferior because the human species evolves and a supposed biological issue should not be used to hold women back socially.

All of these solutions would help to address the issue of gender bias within psychology.

Achievement

Subject: Psychology

Standard: 91876

Total score: 3

Q	Grade score	Marker commentary
One	A3	<p>The candidate provides brief descriptions of gender bias, alpha bias, beta bias and androcentrism in relation to case study C.</p> <p>They have identified several examples of gender bias in psychological practice with some explanation. Further elaboration on how gender bias is evident in these examples would strengthen the response.</p>