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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.

Merit

TOTAL 5

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 B ▾

PLANNING

TASK

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

Cultural Bias

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

B *I* U  ▾  ▾ ↶ ↷ ⌚

In case study B cultural Bias is presented through psychological Bias. Culutral bias is when you interpret and judge aspects of one culture through the beliefs and importances of your own culutre. This can lead to problems through discrimination and stereotyping people into groups when culutre is not seen as an important aspects as to how one percieves the world.

There are two types of cultural bias. The first time of culutral bias is alpha bias which exaggerates the differences between cultures. The second type of cultural bias is called beta bias and it minimizes the differences between cultures, ignoring different aspects of what is important to some cultures and what isnt so important to others. In the Case study part of Arohas psychology university courses was to explore cross culture differences in learning by measuring paticipants perfromance on a memory task and discuss their learning experiences in an interview. Although Aroha found the memory task difficult as it was based onn Western concepts that did not reflect her Maori world view. Western concpets are usually centered around an individualistic culutre where personal achievements are seen as more important where Aroha is more likely to come from a collectivist culture (New Zeland) where group success is applauded. By the university including this study within their psychology course they are saying that it is universal and that it can be applied to all cultures. This can lead to inaccuracy as we know that there are huge differences within cultures, due to different beliefs and how they view what is important to them within their world. The western culture dominants psychology studies which presents ethnocentrsim. Ethnocentrsim creates this idea that there is a benchmark and if you are not able to reach that benchmark then you are either in or your out. It does not look at other influences that may influence an individual such as culture.

We have huge issues within our world, with looking at things such as diagnostic tools for mental health as universal. The DSM- 5 tool is a common tool that people use to diagnose people with mental health although it has a huge percent of over diagnosing or underdiagnosing people due to them not being part of the culutre that these tools originated from. WEIRD participants are western, educated, industrialised, rich, deocratic characteristics that belong to participants often used in psychology studies such as memory performance tests. This characteristics do not align with Arohas culutre at all who is from a Maori world view. Aroha has learned through her culutre the importance of reviewing her interview responses for accuracy and allowing them to have ownership of their contributions. Although the researcher refused to do this showing disrepsect to Arohas culutre by entitling his etic approach above her own cultures importances. This is very disrespectful towards Arohas Maori culutre, instead the researcher should provide more of an emic approach towards Arohas request and understand from her perspective the importance of allowing her to feel a sense of ownership for her work she has done towards the interview. This case study shows the impact of applying iniversality. The original memory task would have been based off morals that are looked at as important in an individulaistic culutre such as focusing on how much she learned, although with Aroha coming from more of a collectiviist culutre where she talks about the importance of kapa haka to her learning, whcih is not viewed as impoartant due to the Westernised study.

(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 ☰ ∨ ☰ ∨ ↶ ↷ Ⓞ

Milgram's obedience study was a 1960s study based around this idea of obedience when authority exists in situations. Milgram used a Westernised population to base the results of his study off. In the study there were two groups of participants, one group was giving fake electric shocks to the other group who would be receiving these fake electric shocks although would fake pain. There was a conductor of the experiment who told participants when to give electric shocks and to tell them to continue giving them. This study showed that 65 % of the individuals within this study would conform to the conductor's authority - therefore showing a high level of obedience. Although later, this study was replicated through a German population who did not show nearly close the same levels of obedience that the original American population did. Therefore this study is shown not to be universal between different cultures. This may be due to different countries and cultures having more dominant hierarchical systems that lead to them responding to authority in a more disciplined manner. This study shows the disadvantage of using an etic approach to studying and how different importances in cultures are not looked at as influences when using this way of studying. This relates to Case study B where the original memory task was based on only using one culture's views and results to originate the memory task (Wetserized) but it was then applied to test the memory of cross-cultural differences in learning to Aroha who is not part of the Western Society - coming from a Maori culture. Therefore both these studies use etic approaches to originate the study which it then should be looked at as inaccurate and shouldn't be applied to cultures outside of the study.

Mary Ainsworth "strange situation" study was also another study that can be used to support case study B. This study was based around the relationship between American infants and their parents. This study was based around attachment patterns with American infants and their parents. This study showed that it is most likely and the most desired attachment relationship between parents and infants is secure. Although this study was later replicated in Japan which within Japanese culture attachment patterns are more likely to show insecure patterns. This was looked at as unusual and not desirable, instead of viewing it as cultural bias as the original study was only based on infants and parents from America. The original study based around attachment patterns between infants and parents was done in the 1970s. Years later in 1990 research was done and provided by Takahashi which was interpreted through cultural differences showing evidence as to why the results were different and not directly assuming that Japanese parents and infants have unusual attachment patterns. This research provided us with the evidence that Japanese children are more likely to separate from their parents from a young age therefore this could be a reason within their culture that these attachment patterns are insecure. This relates to Aroha's situation through looking at the original study as being universal. Both original studies from Aroha's situation and from Mary Ainsworth's study originated from Western populations and then applied to test or provide information from other cultures such as Maori (case study B) and Japanese. These studies are not accurate tests to be used on other cultures without looking at the differences of characteristics, beliefs, traditions, morals, and religions that separate cultures from each other.

In New Zealand we have problems with diagnosing mental disorders. In New Zealand the Maori rates for suicide, depression and prevalence to other mental health problems is much higher than other races within New Zealand such as Pakeha. Although diagnostic tools that are used in New Zealand can interpret data wrong for mental health tests such as the DSM - 5. Maori are 50 % more likely in New Zealand to have mental health issues although they are 30 % more likely to be undiagnosed and not made aware of the issues that they are dealing with. This is due to tests and tools that are being used not being accurate for Maori culture, and therefore this becomes a huge issue when individuals from the Maori culture are in need of mental help but are not made aware of it. A study done by Taitimu et al (2018) shows the significant difference in cultural context when looking at Maori culture on its own and the diagnosis of schizophrenia. Maori may be looked to have a higher diagnosis of schizophrenia as they are prone to talking to themselves although within their culture this is seen as a way of connecting with their ancestors and not a symptom of schizophrenia. Therefore this study looks at spiritual importances within the culture and helps accuracy of judging whether or not an individual actually has schizophrenia. This original issue supports and relates back to case study B as both of them lack cultural competency within the way they look at things from one direct cultural and assume they can apply to all. This can disadvantage individuals such as Aroha where the researcher dismissed her comments within the interview, stating that the study was focused on what she learned and not on her culture. Therefore she would have received a bad result in her memory tasks completely ignoring her potential through the ways she spoke about her culture and how well she spoke about feeling connected, to her culture history and community.

(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 ☰ ▾ ☰ ▾ ↶ ↷ ☹

A solution that should be used to address the significant issue could be using an emic approach to when looking at the study or redesigning it. By using an emic approach it would allow the results to be more accurate towards the individuals involved within the study and get rid of this ethnocentric lens of basing the importance of the study around the benchmark focus was how well she learned and not about her culture. When we don't use an emic approach we show huge biases to individuals that studies are well made more (Usually westernized individuals as most studies originate from these populations). This therefore disadvantages individuals such as Aroha who are not from a Westernized culture and therefore different importances are seen within her culture. By using an emic approach we would be able to understand Aroha's culture with more depth and purpose and she would be understood more in studies and her comments about her culture and history would therefore not be dismissed and looked at with more meaning. This would therefore help Aroha not interpreting her results on the memory task as low and instead her individualism through her culture and the understanding of that would be looked - allowing her to reach her potential in tests that don't significantly align with her culture values. Although the one struggle we have with taking an emic approach is that we cannot be sure that we are being completely culturally competent.

Culturally competent means trying to understand all cultures and interpret cultures through no bias originating from your own culture. Although becoming culturally competent can become very difficult as there is so much to learn from many aspects of different cultures. Many psychologists say that the first step to becoming culturally competent is believing that you are not. Through being culturally competent you would be able to understand all cultures within different studies in an individualistic way. Cultural competency can be looked at as a very tokenistic concept where many people think that it is a check box. Although you will never be completely culturally competent. You can grasp better understandings of different cultures and help you ignore the bias of your own when interpreting different studies and their results. It would have benefited Aroha a lot in her memory task test, if researchers who ran the test were more culturally competent. Allowing her to review her interview responses for accuracy as they understand that within her Maori culture this is important in Maori culture as it shows respectful research practice, as it respected participants' mana. This would help to push back this idea of cultural relativism when designing studies and next time include participants from a wide range of areas and cultures throughout the world.

Merit

Subject: Psychology

Standard: 91876

Total score: 5

Q	Grade score	Marker commentary
One	M5	The candidate has explained, in detail, how cultural bias and ethnocentrism are demonstrated in case study B and psychological practice. They have described, in some detail, how cultural bias is evident in examples of psychological research. Although the candidate has proposed solutions to address cultural bias, they lack sufficient detail for Excellence.