

Assessment Report

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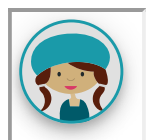
Standards [91876](#)

Part A: Commentary

Candidates generally understood the requirements of the assessment and demonstrated analysis of a significant issue in psychological practice, using their chosen resource to support their response.

The majority of candidates focused on either gender bias in relation to Resource C, or cultural bias in relation to Resource A or Resource D. Candidates typically responded well to their chosen resource, regardless of whether they selected a predominantly visual resource (e.g. Resource A) or written resource (e.g. Resource C).

Successful candidate responses attempted all three parts of the examination. They focused on identifying and describing the issue demonstrated in their chosen resource in response to (a), and then discussing the issue in psychological practice in response to (b) and (c).



Part B: Report on standards

91876: Analyse a significant issue in psychological practice

Examinations

Candidates were asked to choose one resource from the five provided, as stated in the 2021 assessment specifications. The resources covered a range of issues identified in the achievement standard (cultural bias, use of animals in research, gender bias, socially sensitive research). Resource D was a generic resource that could be interpreted in relation to any of the issues in psychological practice.

There were three parts to this task and candidates were instructed to complete all three. For (a), candidates needed to identify and describe the issue shown in their chosen resource. For the remainder of the examination, candidates were required to demonstrate their understanding of the issue in psychological practice.

Observations

Careful resource selection helped candidates with their responses. The chosen resource should be clearly indicated in the candidate's response (e.g. Resource A addressed the issue of cultural bias).

Note that visual resources (e.g. cartoons) have accompanying text (e.g. brief written description / statement), for example, Resource D.

Responses could refer to both the visual and written components of the resource.

In relation to supporting evidence, explanations of studies / theories needed to explicitly relate to the issue in psychological practice (e.g. how Kohlberg's Theory of Moral Development and study demonstrates gender bias). The author(s) and date of publication should also be clearly acknowledged at least (e.g. Kohlberg, 1968).

Successful candidates accurately identified and described the issue shown in the chosen resource.

For example, Resource A addressed the issue of cultural bias. Cultural bias is the tendency to judge others' behaviours based on one's own cultural experiences and expectations. Other cultural values, beliefs and behaviours may be viewed as 'inferior' and / or 'abnormal' in comparison to one's own. In the cartoon, an indigenous person is saying to an overseas visitor that they would do "terribly" in

the indigenous culture's IQ test because it's assumed, they cannot complete certain tasks (building huts, finding edible roots, predicting the weather).

Candidates who successfully discussed how the issue can be addressed tended to discuss at least two specific strategies / ways to overcome / minimise the issue. These strategies were clearly related to the issue in psychological practice (explanation may include key concepts such as androcentrism, alpha bias and / or beta bias) and explained in detail. Responses were often linked to supporting evidence (e.g. statistics, publications, psychological research, concepts and/or theory). This could include evidence already described in (b) and / or new evidence introduced in (c). It was clear how the strategy could address the issue. Candidates may have also explained how the strategy could be implemented / achieved; this may have been achieved by providing an example of current practice where the strategy is being demonstrated (e.g. Mahi a Atua is an indigenous approach to wellbeing and care, designed by Dr Diana Kopua and Mark Kopua. The Mahi a Atua programme facilitates hui with Māori whānau focused on sharing traditional narratives and pūrākau as a pathway to wellbeing.)

A common mistake made by candidates was that they focussed on general ideas (e.g. "use more women as participants and / or psychologists") that lacked an explanation of how the strategy would address the issue.

Grade awarding

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement** commonly:

- identified and describe the issue demonstrated in their chosen resource in relation to psychological practice
- used and described some key terms (e.g. androcentrism, alpha bias, beta bias)
- included some description(s) of supporting evidence but lacked enough explanation and/or detail for Merit.

Candidates whose work was assessed as **Not Achieved** commonly:

- did not identify or refer to the issue demonstrated in their chosen resource. Responses lacked understanding of the issue
- did not explain their chosen issue in relation to psychological practice.

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement with Merit** commonly:

- provided a detailed explanation of an issue
- fully applied this understanding to psychological practice
- described supporting evidence which may have included an explanation of how the evidence demonstrated the issue
- discussed ways / strategies in which the issue could be addressed, but not in enough detail for Excellence.

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement with Excellence** commonly:

- provided a detailed explanation of an issue
 - comprehensively applied the issue to psychological practice
 - provided explanations of supporting evidence integrated into responses
 - provided at least two ways/strategies in which the issue could be addressed were discussed in detail.
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Previous years' reports

[2020 \(PDF, 119KB\)](#)

[2019 \(PDF, 179KB\)](#)

[2018 \(PDF, 73KB\)](#)
