**TASK SHEET** Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

[It is essential to **read**, follow and use this carefully] Term 1, 2015

**TYPE:** Investigation

**OUTCOMES:** Outcome 2: Investigating in psychology; Outcome 4: Communication in psychology

**CONTENT:** Unit 3APSY/3BPSY

**UNIT CONTEXT:** Healthy lifestyle/Diversity and community

**Task 2: Design a reliable, valid and ethical study. Present it as a report.** (8%)

This task provides an opportunity for you to design a reliable, valid and ethical investigation of your own. You will be asked to select a research butt question and then plan how a psychologist could design a study to investigate this research question. This is a planning task only; **you will not be involved in conducting the research.** Your design should be ‘do-able’ in the real world but does not have to be able to be conducted with students, in a school/university setting.

**Term 1. Due date: FRIDAY, MARCH 20 [WEEK 7]**

**What you need to do**

Design a reliable, valid and ethical study (ie investigation/experiment) to investigate **one** of the following four research questions:

You will need to **think carefully** about these, which ones would be the most practical to do for an undergraduate university level group of students? You don’t have lots of money to spend on it.

**RESEARH QUESTIONS**

1. Will having someone read study material to you when you are asleep result in better recall of the material when you are awake?
2. Does a person’s level of motivation to solve a problem affect their ability to solve a problem?
3. Do boys and girls exhibit no behavioural differences until environmental influences begin to

produce such differences?

1. Is a person’s success in quitting smoking influenced by whether his/her friends smoke?

Present your design in a **report**

A sample format with headings for your write-up is provided below.

**Guidelines for designing a research study**

Each of the following should be **clearly evident** in your **report** (see below for hints)

**Have a COVER PAGE**  [all relevant details on it, a picture would be nice] Reports also have a **contents page**

**Title**

Give a title to your study.

**Background**

Provide some background explanation of what the research will be investigating.

Describe present relevant research findings and the **aim** of your investigation in relation to these. This will require you to do some research on your topic. What previous studies have been done and what (if any) findings have been made? This information needs to be cited and the sources put in your Reference List

**Research hypothesis**

Formulate your research hypothesis based on the aim of your investigation. Include both a **general** and a **testable**/**operational** hypothesis that states the predicted outcome, how the variables (ie **independent variable** and **dependent variable**) being studied will be observed, manipulated and measured and mentions the population from which the sample will be selected. *Research Methods* handout very useful here.

**Subjects**

Outline the population that will be studied and how participants will be **sampled** from this population.

*Research Methods* handout very useful here.

**Research method**

Explain the **data collection method** (this is how the study/experiment is actually structures/formatted/organised) that will be used to investigate the research/testable hypothesis. Data collection methods include controlled experiments, naturalistic observations, correlations, surveys, interviews and case studies. Specify how many groups there will be and how they will be **allocated** to their group. What **extraneous variables** will be controlled in the study. *Research Methods* handout very useful here.

Sometimes a diagram(s) can be added here to illustrate your research method and support your text.

**Ethical issues**

Discuss the ethical issues related to the study and how these will be managed. *Research Methods* handout very useful here.

**Reference List** & Citations - Use correct referencing & citation format

(as per your Reference Guide sheet)

**Use correct report format\* and correct language conventions**

**\***Report format, some of the key aspects are;

Cover page, with all relevant details and perhaps a picture

Contents page….sections matched to page numbers (so number pages)

Headings and sub-headings (where applicable) As per the guide above

Report in correct order and pages numbered

Reference List on a separate page

Format clear and logical

Bound on the left-hand-side (Do not encase report in plastic)

**USE THE MARKING KEY TO CHECK THAT YOU HAVE COVERED ALL SECTIONS**

**NB: *NO* ABSTRACT NEEDED!**

**THIS IS VERY SIMILAR TO WHAT WAS DONE IN THE INVESTIGATIONS IN Yr 11**

**Resources**

*Text*

Fletcher, J. & Garton, A. (2007). *Psychology: self, others and society* (pp. 334–340; 368–369; 374–375; 397–398; 409–415; 416–422; 428–430; 477–478; 482–486). Melbourne: Pearson Education.

*Research Methods* handout – also on MOODLE - VERY USEFUL!

Use your *Reference Guide* sheet to help you in writing your Reference List and doing citations, using the correct format

**You will need to find other resources**

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produce such differences?

1. Is a person’s success in quitting smoking influenced by whether his/her friends smoke?

**Eg………**

**Reference List**

Cherry, K. (2014) ***Motivation*** Retrieved 12/3/2014 from www about. com

Fletcher, J. & Garton, A. (2007).***Psychology: self, others and society***

Melbourne: Pearson Education.

Kendall, K. (2007) ***Jumpstart: units 3&4 VCE Psychology***

Melbourne, Thomson Nelson

***Motivation*** (2013) Retrieved 18/3/2014 from www Wikipedia.com

Etc…….