# School of Psychology

# MSc Assessment Brief

# Assessment Details

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Module Title: | Research Practical |
| Module Code: | 03 30807 |
| Module Lead: | Dr Carmel Mevorach (Practical Coordinator) |
| Course(s): | MSc Psychology  MSc Brain Imaging & Cognitive Neuroscience  MSci Psychological & Psychological Research |
| Assessment Title: | Research Report |
| Assessment Type: | Written coursework |
| Restrictions on Time/Length : | 2,000-words |
| Individual/Group: | Individual |
| Assessment Weighting (%): | 80% |
| Issue Date: | **05 September 2022** |
| Submission Date: | **19 January 2023, 12 noon** |
| Mode of Submission: | Upload to Canvas |
| Feedback Type(s): | *written; individual; letter grade; online* |

**Assessment Task**

As part of your undergraduate studies or research experience prior to starting this MSc course, you developed skills to design, conduct, and write-up scientific research. This assessment has been designed to allow you to demonstrate these skills in a practical setting.

**Write a high-quality 2,000-word research report** based on the research practical work you have completed covering both general theoretical and practical background related to the methodology, and the actual work conducted in the practical. The report should be written in a way to allow readers to evaluate the work and knowledge you gained. To this end, the report should be written and presented **using professionally accepted formats**(see **Style and Formatting**, below).

The report should include two parts:

1) ~1500 words: general theoretical and practical description of the methods. This should highlight the underlying assumptions of the method (e.g. relating to measurement or analysis). It should also include discussion of advantages and disadvantages of the method (and possibly comparison to other alternatives). This can be done primarily based on self-reading, starting from seed papers provided by the practical tutor, but make sure to follow your practical tutor instructions and guidelines.

2) ~500 word: description of the work you have done in the practical. This could include the following sections: background and research question, methods, results, discussion (as appropriate).

The organisation and content of your report will depend on the nature of your research practical work. **You should therefore refer to instructions and guidelines provided by your practical supervisor in terms of the content and structure** of the report and be sure to follow their directions on what information your report should contain.

In addition to the above, the report should include:

* a **cover sheet;**
* a **title** that captures the topic or purpose of your research practical;
* a list of **references**, formatted consistently and in a professionally accepted style (e.g., APA, Harvard, IEEE)

If you use **in-text references** in the report these, too, should also be formatted consistently and in a professionally accepted style (e.g., APA, Harvard, IEEE)

## Style and Formatting

The research report must be accurate and informed. A primary goal is to make your report sound exciting and worthy of your time and effort. Writing a good report requires thought, time, and practice. Expect to write several drafts.

The **writing style** should be scholarly, formal, and evidence-based. The research report should be written as clearly as possible. Organise the material logically and use short, concise sentences. Use inclusive, appropriate, and accurate language.

Write the report so that an educated person in Psychology or Neuroscience can understand it; don’t assume that the reader will have the specialist knowledge that tutor has.

The **format, organisation,** **and presentation** of your report should be consistent. A well-formatted and organised report would, for example, use the same font (typeface) throughout, use double-spaced lines, and organise the report with levels of headings (e.g., headings for main sections would be centred and those for sub-sections left-justified).

For ideas on how to format your report, refer to the editorial styles of journals related to your field. Some examples are:

* Psychology and social sciences: American Psychological Association (see: <http://www.apastyle.org/>)
* Neuroscience: (see: <http://www.jneurosci.org/content/preparing-manuscript#organization>)
* Engineering, computing, and technology – IEEE (see: <https://ieeeauthorcenter.ieee.org/create-your-ieee-article/use-authoring-tools-and-ieee-article-templates/ieee-article-templates/> )

Finally, avoid the quality of the research report being overshadowed by easily spotted typos and easily amended inconsistencies in style and formatting. Build in time to proof-read or have someone else proof-read your work.

See the online reading list for guidance on writing-up

**Presentation Requirements (for word-processed assessments)**

Please include a cover sheet with the following details:

1. Your student ID (please do not add your name to the document)
2. Your course
3. Assessment title
4. Name of your practical tutor
5. Exact word count

In addition, please number each page in your document.

# Assessment Criteria

The research report will be **marked by the tutor who led the research practical.**  Mark sheets and specific criteria can be found on the Canvas page. You are strongly encouraged to read the marking criteria before submitting your report. The pass mark for this assessment is **C-.**

Students must comply with the [Code of Practice on Academic Integrity](https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/Documents/university/legal/academic-integrity.pdf) when undertaking assessments.

# Recommended Resources

Please refer to the online reading list

# Additional Information

## Word Count

The word count should be respected and reports longer than 2,000-words will not be read. State the exact number of words on the cover page (see Presentation Requirements, above).

The word count **includes**:

* The title
* Headings and sub-headings
* In-text citations
* Quotations

The word count **does not** include:

* The cover page
* Any tables or figures
* Any table or figure captions
* Appendices
* References