
Sample Assignment: Unit 13 The Mind and the Brain

ASSIGNMENT BRIEF

Unit Name:	The Mind and the Brain	Unit Number:	Unit 13
Assignment Title:	An Investigation into Cognitive Functioning	Assignment Number:	13.4
Date Set:		Due Date:	
Assessment Objective(s): AO3, AO2c			
Brief: Plan and carry out an investigation into cognitive functioning. The investigation will focus on an area of cognition already studied within the unit (e.g. Memory, Eye Witness testimony). Areas within Cognitive psychology are all crucial to enable us to function in everyday life and raise a number of questions. How, without memory, would we be able to 'bump into an old friend and know who they are' or 'remember how to get to work/college or even that we have to go'? Do memory techniques work when it comes to remembering information for exams? Is there a clear relationship between old age and declining memory? How reliable is an eye-witness testimony in court? These are examples of important issues that have relevance to us all. The investigation will involve: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research to obtain information about the topic• Practical work to replicate the work of others or to test your identified hypothesis• The collection of data and statistical calculation to enable you to draw conclusions and evaluate your hypothesis.			
You have (...) weeks in which to research, plan, carry out and write-up your investigation. Task 1 Research and plan your chosen area, as agreed with your teacher. You must consider all relevant ethical issues and provide evidence of this. Record details of any sources used. Record the aims of your investigation with appropriate hypothesis. Identify and give the rationale for the chosen method/design. Arrange a time to carry out the research with participants that have given consent and ensure that appropriate controls are in place.			

Task 2

Carry out your research.

Follow your plan as agreed with your teacher.

Record precisely what was done, such that another individual with knowledge of the area could replicate your investigation.

Record the data collected in a suitable form.

Carry out calculations to help you to interpret your data.

To enable you to achieve AO2c you can extend your work.

Task 2a

Prepare a fact sheet showing statistical evidence either from your or from other research.

Summarise the results of the data.

Analyse the data using basic statistical test calculations.

Giving reasons for the analysis where you can.

Task 2a covers AO2c: 3 marks

Task 3

Prepare a scientific report on your investigation following the appropriate format for psychological research reports.

To ensure that you achieve the highest marking band, include in your report:

- Background information and scientific research
- The aim of the investigation and the hypothesis
- Details of the work carried out (including design, participants, materials, procedure, controls and measurement)
- Descriptive and inferential (statistical calculations) results
- Details of the hypothesis to be accepted
- How well the investigation achieved the aims stated
- A critical evaluation – including reference to issues such as: validity, ethics, application to everyday life, suggestions for further research
- Reference section and bibliography.

Maximum marks possible: 26 (AO3)

Resources:

Suggestions for the research may include investigating the formation or storage of memory, the capacity of memory 7 ± 2 , levels of processing and techniques to improve memory.