



# PSYP902

## Psychological Assessment and Reports

S1 Day 2019

*Department of Psychology*

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#### **Disclaimer**

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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Julie Boulis

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Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to MProfPsych

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit examines the theory and practice of test use in professional psychology. The unit teaches key aspects of the administration, scoring and interpretation of a broad range of tests likely to be utilised in professional psychology practice, including: child and adult intelligence tests; achievement tests; certain neuropsychological tests; adaptive behaviour tests; personality tests; and tests of emotional well-being, general psychological distress, and psycho-social functioning. Students are instructed in the writing of reports in which the results of test data have to be communicated. Issues involved in the testing of special populations, such as individuals with brain injury are considered and practical experience in managing these issues is provided through live skills assessment. Issues of cross-cultural assessment and culture fair testing are also considered, along with practical considerations relating to the use of tests in different practice settings, including private practice.

## Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Summarise the current research and theory in the field of assessment and psychometrics

Review the varied aspects of psychological test validity and assessment procedures

Integrate and synthesise the learning and knowledge of administration, scoring and interpretation of the major psychological tests commonly used in psychological practice  
Generate multiple forms of assessment data  
Explain the procedures involved in writing sound psychological assessment reports  
Recognise the cultural and diverse ethical issues and obstacles that arise when conducting psychological assessments and reporting results

## General Assessment Information

A suicide risk assessment workshop attendance on Friday 15th March is mandatory. This will be held in the Hearing Hub Level 1.

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<a href="#">WAIS Live Skills Assessment</a>	40%	No	March 27
<a href="#">Psychological Assessment</a>	60%	Yes	April 5th

### WAIS Live Skills Assessment

Due: **March 27**

Weighting: **40%**

Live skills demonstration of WAIS administration and response recording. You will be assessed on your ability to administer, score and interpret the results of a WAIS subtest.

You are directed to the following article that contains a checklist for WAIS administration: Roberts, R.M. & Davis, M.C. (2015). Assessment of a model for achieving competency in administration and scoring of the WAIS-IV in post-graduate psychology students. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 6, Article Number 641.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Review the varied aspects of psychological test validity and assessment procedures
- Integrate and synthesise the learning and knowledge of administration, scoring and interpretation of the major psychological tests commonly used in psychological practice
- Generate multiple forms of assessment data
- Recognise the cultural and diverse ethical issues and obstacles that arise when conducting psychological assessments and reporting results

# Psychological Assessment

Due: **April 5th**

Weighting: **60%**

**This is a hurdle assessment task (see [assessment policy](#) for more information on hurdle assessment tasks)**

Interpretive Report Case Study 3000 words

This is a hurdle assessment. This assessment enables students to demonstrate minimum competency in psychology skills integral to writing interpretative reports. Writing an interpretative report will enable students to demonstrate fitness to practice as a psychologist in terms of conducting core skills necessary to develop case formulation. This is an essential skill that all students need to demonstrate prior to their first placement. Consistent with the Assessment Policy, students who make a serious attempt, but fail to meet minimum standards will be given a second opportunity to complete the task to the minimum standard. The minimum standards will be defined as at least a Functional level in a rubric that will be made available to students and will be based on standards required by APAC. Students who fail to meet the minimum standards on the second attempt will fail the unit. For those who pass the second attempt, a maximum mark of 50% (PASS) will be given for the PSYP902 Psychological Assessment and Reports, Interpretive Report Assessment, Case study.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Summarise the current research and theory in the field of assessment and psychometrics
- Integrate and synthesise the learning and knowledge of administration, scoring and interpretation of the major psychological tests commonly used in psychological practice
- Generate multiple forms of assessment data
- Explain the procedures involved in writing sound psychological assessment reports
- Recognise the cultural and diverse ethical issues and obstacles that arise when conducting psychological assessments and reporting results

## Delivery and Resources

The unit is comprised of lectures and workshops.

Lectures: 3 x 3 hour lecture on Wednesday

2 x 3 hour lecture on Saturday

Workshops: 3 x 3 hour workshop on Wednesday

2 x 3 hour workshop on Saturday

If one or more workshops per unit is missed, then the student is at risk of being excluded and university rules may apply.

## Learning and Teaching Activities

### Psychometrics and Personality Assessment

This first workshop reviews key concepts relating to selection of measurement tools, psychometrics, standardised administration, scoring and interpretation. We introduce the PAI as a measure of personality with hands on experience in measurement and interpretation. WAIS kits are also distributed to the class in preparation for Workshop 2.

### Measuring Intelligence

Test Administration and Interpretation of the WAIS and the WISC. Please make sure to read the article by Robert & Davis (2015) referenced earlier in the unit guide. This session is devoted to using the WAIS - please make sure you bring your kit - and comparisons with the WISC.

### Report Writing, Measures of Well-Being and use of the SCID

Essential elements of good report writing are introduced and examples provided. We explore the use of the DASS and K10 with hands on scoring and interpretation.

### Assessing Children and Practising WAIS administration

The first half of the workshop is devoted to the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire with the second half focused on small group supervision and feedback from instructors.

## Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

Undergraduate students seeking more policy resources can visit the [Student Policy Gateway \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway). It is your one-stop-shop for the

key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central \(http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central).

## Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/getting-started/student-conduct>

## Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au) or if you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto:globalmba.support@mq.edu.au)

## Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

## Learning Skills

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://mq.edu.au/learningskills)) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

## Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

## Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au)

If you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto:globalmba.support@mq.edu.au)

## IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit [http://www.mq.edu.au/about\\_us/offices\\_and\\_units/information\\_technology/help/](http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/).

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

## Graduate Capabilities

### PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

#### Learning outcomes

- Summarise the current research and theory in the field of assessment and psychometrics
- Review the varied aspects of psychological test validity and assessment procedures
- Integrate and synthesise the learning and knowledge of administration, scoring and interpretation of the major psychological tests commonly used in psychological practice
- Generate multiple forms of assessment data
- Explain the procedures involved in writing sound psychological assessment reports
- Recognise the cultural and diverse ethical issues and obstacles that arise when conducting psychological assessments and reporting results

#### Assessment tasks

- WAIS Live Skills Assessment
- Psychological Assessment

### PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

#### Learning outcomes

- Summarise the current research and theory in the field of assessment and psychometrics
- Review the varied aspects of psychological test validity and assessment procedures
- Integrate and synthesise the learning and knowledge of administration, scoring and interpretation of the major psychological tests commonly used in psychological practice
- Generate multiple forms of assessment data
- Explain the procedures involved in writing sound psychological assessment reports

- Recognise the cultural and diverse ethical issues and obstacles that arise when conducting psychological assessments and reporting results

### **Assessment tasks**

- WAIS Live Skills Assessment
- Psychological Assessment

## **PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking**

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### **Learning outcomes**

- Summarise the current research and theory in the field of assessment and psychometrics
- Review the varied aspects of psychological test validity and assessment procedures
- Integrate and synthesise the learning and knowledge of administration, scoring and interpretation of the major psychological tests commonly used in psychological practice
- Generate multiple forms of assessment data
- Explain the procedures involved in writing sound psychological assessment reports

### **Assessment tasks**

- WAIS Live Skills Assessment
- Psychological Assessment

## **PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability**

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### **Learning outcomes**

- Summarise the current research and theory in the field of assessment and psychometrics
- Review the varied aspects of psychological test validity and assessment procedures



- Integrate and synthesise the learning and knowledge of administration, scoring and interpretation of the major psychological tests commonly used in psychological practice
- Explain the procedures involved in writing sound psychological assessment reports

## **Assessment tasks**

- WAIS Live Skills Assessment
- Psychological Assessment

## **PG - Effective Communication**

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## **Learning outcomes**

- Summarise the current research and theory in the field of assessment and psychometrics
- Review the varied aspects of psychological test validity and assessment procedures
- Integrate and synthesise the learning and knowledge of administration, scoring and interpretation of the major psychological tests commonly used in psychological practice
- Generate multiple forms of assessment data
- Recognise the cultural and diverse ethical issues and obstacles that arise when conducting psychological assessments and reporting results

## **Assessment tasks**

- WAIS Live Skills Assessment
- Psychological Assessment

## **PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens**

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues

This graduate capability is supported by:

## **Learning outcomes**

- Summarise the current research and theory in the field of assessment and psycho-

metrics

- Review the varied aspects of psychological test validity and assessment procedures
- Integrate and synthesise the learning and knowledge of administration, scoring and interpretation of the major psychological tests commonly used in psychological practice
- Recognise the cultural and diverse ethical issues and obstacles that arise when conducting psychological assessments and reporting results

## **Assessment tasks**

- WAIS Live Skills Assessment
- Psychological Assessment