



PSYU3332

Principles of Psychological Assessment

Session 1, Special circumstances 2021

Archive (Pre-2022) - Department of Psychology

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Macquarie University has taken all reasonable measures to ensure the information in this publication is accurate and up-to-date. However, the information may change or become out-dated as a result of change in University policies, procedures or rules. The University reserves the right to make changes to any information in this publication without notice. Users of this publication are advised to check the website version of this publication [or the relevant faculty or department] before acting on any information in this publication.

Notice

As part of [Phase 3 of our return to campus plan](#), most units will now run tutorials, seminars and other small group activities on campus, and most will keep an online version available to those students unable to return or those who choose to continue their studies online.

To check the availability of face-to-face activities for your unit, please go to [timetable viewer](#). To check detailed information on unit assessments visit your unit's iLearn space or consult your unit convenor.

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff Lorna Peters lorna.peters@mq.edu.au
Credit points 10
Prerequisites (PSY248 or PSYU2248 or PSYX248 or PSYX2248) and 10cp at 2000 of PSY or PSYU or PSYX units
Corequisites
Co-badged status
Unit description This unit is concerned with the assessment of individual differences in intelligence and personality through the use of appropriate psychological tests. Important principles of psychological measurement and assessment are covered, including: standardisation, norms, reliability, test development and validation. The practical program emphasises test development and test administration; scoring and interpretation; and highlights current issues in the use and interpretation of tests.

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:

ULO1: Understand the historical and theoretical basis of psychological testing.

ULO2: Remember, understand, and apply statistical procedures to describe the psychometric properties of a test.

ULO3: Generate a psychological test and examine its adequacy using empirical procedures.

ULO4: Understand the theoretical and empirical bases of psychological tests used to assess the main domains of cognition and personality.

ULO5: Understand the application of psychological tests in a variety of domains of

psychological practice (e.g., organisational and clinical contexts).

General Assessment Information

Assessment in PSYU3332 is made up of a Midsession Exam, a Written Report, and the Final Exam.

Midsession Exam

An online midsession exam will be conducted in week 7 (Monday 19th April). The online exam will be delivered via an iLearn quiz that will be made available for a 24 hour period (12am until 11.59pm). Within that 24 hour period, once the quiz has been started, students will have 40 minutes to complete the multiple choice quiz questions (some involving calculation). Students must start the exam by 11.19pm at the latest in order to have the full 40-minutes to complete the exam.

The midsession exam will test students' ability to apply and analyse the statistics introduced in the lectures in weeks 2 – 5. Students will not be required to recall formulae – a sheet containing formulae will be provided. Questions will require students to use data to generate the statistics and to use the results of their calculations to make judgements about test scores. Different question sets will be generated for students to reduce the chance that students can copy directly from one another. Worked examples of the sorts of questions asked on the test will be demonstrated in the lectures. Students will be provided with their mark via the iLearn page for the unit after the exam closes.

Written Report

A written report (maximum 1500 words), in APA format, will be due by close of business (5pm) on Monday 3rd May. Students should submit their assignment via Turnitin on the iLearn webpage for the Unit. Feedback on the report will be returned via iLearn during week 13.

The report will be based on Practical 1 and 2 and will report on the construction and psychometric properties of a brief test developed in the practical exercises. The requirements of the assignment will be covered in a recorded lecture made available via iLearn by the end of Week 6. Students will be able to self-assess their performance prior to submission of the assignment against the criteria which will be used by the tutors marking the assignment and will be available via the iLearn webpage for the unit prior to the submission date. Feedback will be provided relative to those criteria. A penalty will be applied for going over the word limit of 1500 words: 5% of the maximum assignment mark (i.e., 35/100) for every 100 words written over the word limit. For example, if the assignment is 100-199 words over the word limit, 1.75 marks out of 35 will be deducted; if the assignment is 200-299 words over the word limit, 3.5 marks out of 35 will be deducted etc. The word limit excludes the title page, tables and figures, and References pages.

Final Examination

During the final exam period, students will complete a 1 hour multiple choice exam, which will assess recall, understanding, and application of material presented in lectures 8 to 12 inclusive

and in practicals 3 to 6 inclusive, as well as any required readings associated with those lectures and practicals.

Special Consideration

If you experience serious and unavoidable difficulties at exam time or when assessment tasks are due, you can consider applying for Special Consideration. There is a link to the policy in the Policies and Procedures section of this Unit Guide. Procedures specific to this unit are noted below.

Macquarie University operates under a 'Fit to Sit' model. This means that, in sitting an examination and/or in-class test or otherwise submitting an assessment, a student is declaring that they are fit to do so. It is the responsibility of the student to determine whether they are fit to sit an examination or test, or otherwise submit an assessment. Therefore, if a student is feeling unfit to sit the examination or test, or otherwise submit the assessment, they should not do so.

- If you are unable to sit the Midsession Exam at the specified time: Students who are unable to complete the online midsession exam at the specified time due to serious and unavoidable circumstances must make a claim for Special Consideration via ask.mq.edu.au attaching appropriate supporting documents within five (5) working days from the day of the midsession examination. The unit convenor will determine eligibility for a late midsession exam and eligible students will be notified via email (using the official university email address for the student) about the time (likely to be during week 8; this date is subject to change) of the late midsession exam. The format of the late midsession exam is at the unit convenor's discretion and is subject to change from the original midsession examination. There will be only one alternative time.
- If you are unable to submit the Written Report on time: Ordinarily, no extensions of time for submission of written work will be granted since ample time for its preparation will have been given. If an extension is required for medical or other extenuating circumstances, students may request Special Consideration via ask.mq.edu.au with supporting documentary evidence (such as medical certificate, counsellor note, or similar) within five (5) working days after the due date for the assignment. Assignments submitted after the due date where an extension has not been granted will be penalised at the rate of 5% of the maximum assignment mark (i.e., 35/100) for every day late. That is, 1.75 marks will be deducted from the assignment mark for every day the assignment is late. Assignments will not be accepted after 5pm on Monday 31st May.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Online mid-session quiz	20%	No	Week 7
Report	35%	No	Week 9
Final Examination	45%	No	Final Exam Period

Online mid-session quiz

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 23 hours

Due: **Week 7**

Weighting: **20%**

Online multiple-choice quiz testing unit content.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand the historical and theoretical basis of psychological testing.
- Remember, understand, and apply statistical procedures to describe the psychometric properties of a test.
- Generate a psychological test and examine its adequacy using empirical procedures.

Report

Assessment Type ¹: Report

Indicative Time on Task ²: 35 hours

Due: **Week 9**

Weighting: **35%**

A 1500 word written report, in APA format on the construction and psychometric properties of a brief test developed in the practical class.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Remember, understand, and apply statistical procedures to describe the psychometric properties of a test.
- Generate a psychological test and examine its adequacy using empirical procedures.
- Understand the theoretical and empirical bases of psychological tests used to assess the main domains of cognition and personality.
- Understand the application of psychological tests in a variety of domains of psychological practice (e.g., organisational and clinical contexts).

Final Examination

Assessment Type ¹: Examination

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **Final Exam Period**

Weighting: **45%**

Final examination held within the University's formal exam period, in accordance with relevant requirements.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand the historical and theoretical basis of psychological testing.
- Understand the theoretical and empirical bases of psychological tests used to assess the main domains of cognition and personality.
- Understand the application of psychological tests in a variety of domains of psychological practice (e.g., organisational and clinical contexts).

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the [Writing Centre](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

Please note that this unit has been altered to accommodate our delivery provisions in compliance with current COVID-19 requirements (Special Circumstance delivery). Learning activities (such as tutorials and other small group learning activities) will be offered on-campus while keeping an online version available for those students who choose to continue their studies online (selected via eStudent). Learning activities for this unit will be delivered as follows:

Recorded Lecture Material

There are no on-campus lectures. Recorded lecture material (up to 2-hours duration) will be available via iLearn each week of the session, apart from weeks 7 and 13. On occasion, a question and answer session may be delivered online (via Zoom) during the timetabled lecture time (Monday 5-7pm); sessions will be recorded and made available via iLearn.

Readings associated with lectures will be listed in the lecture outlines posted on iLearn and most will be made available via Unit Readings on the Library webpage.

All lecture material is examinable (either in the midsession exam or in the final exam).

Practicals

There are six 2-hour practicals. Students attend one 2-hour practical each fortnight, either on-campus or online via Zoom. Practical classes begin in week 2 or week 3 (depending on the stream). Set reading will be required prior to some practicals - the readings will be listed on iLearn and made available via Unit Readings on the Library webpage.

Attendance at practicals is strongly advised - the material will be assessed, but more importantly, it is in the practical classes that application of the material from lectures is discussed and demonstrated.

All practical material is assessable (either in the assignment or in the final exam).

Recommended Text

Any recent text on Psychological Testing or Psychological Assessment will more than likely cover the main content of the unit. The text recommended for the unit in 2020 is:

Shum, D., O’Gorman, J., Myors, B., & Creed, P. (2017). Psychological Testing and Assessment (Third Edition). Melbourne, Vic.: Oxford University Press.

Unit Schedule

Week	Recorded Lectures	Practicals
1	Unit information – objectives, assessment, organization Introduction to psychological assessment. Overview of types of tests. (Peters)	
2	Test scores. Norms. Reliability: Types; Sources of error; Methods of calculating (Peters)	Practical 1: Test construction (the assignment is based on this practical)
3	Reliability: Reliability and standard error of measurement; worked examples Validity: Types; Methods of determining validity Relationship between reliability and validity (Peters)	
4	Test Construction (Peters)	Practical 2: Analysis of test data (the assignment is based on this practical also)
5	Item Response Theory (Peters/Baillie)	
6	Revision for the midsession exam (Peters) Assignment requirements (Peters; available by the end of Week 6)	Practical 3: Test fairness, test bias and testing special groups
	Midsession Recess	

7	MIDSESSION EXAM No lecture this week	Practical 3: Test fairness, test bias and testing special groups
8	Ethical issues in the use of psychological assessment (Peters; recorded lecture)	Practical 4: IQ testing with the Wechsler tests
9	Assessment of Intelligence: Theoretical Issues (Todorov)	
10	Assessment of Intelligence: Clinical Issues (Todorov)	Practical 5: Current Issues in IQ Testing
11	Personality Assessment: Self-report Inventories (Peters)	
12	Personality Assessment: Other techniques (Peters)	Practical 6: Personality test administration, scoring and interpretation
13	No lecture this week	

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au). 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](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/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 or if you are a Global MBA student contact 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) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to help you improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Getting help with your assignment](#)
- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

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

If you are a Global MBA student contact 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/.

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.