



PSYU3332

Principles of Psychological Assessment

Session 1, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2023

School of Psychological Sciences

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

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

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

General Assessment Information

General assessment Information

Grade descriptors and other information concerning grading are contained in the [Macquarie University Assessment Policy](#).

All final grades are determined by a grading committee, in accordance with the Macquarie University Assessment Policy, and are not the sole responsibility of the Unit Convenor.

Students will be awarded a final grade and a mark which must correspond to the grade descriptors specified in the [Assessment Procedure](#) (clause 128).

To pass this unit, you must demonstrate sufficient evidence of achievement of the learning outcomes, meet any ungraded requirements, and achieve a final mark of 50 or better.

Further details for each assessment task will be available on iLearn.

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 (Tuesday 4th 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.

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.

Written Report

A written report (maximum 1500 words), in APA format, will be due by 11.55pm on Monday 24th April. Students should submit their assignment via Turnitin on the iLearn webpage for the Unit.

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.

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. An additional 99 words beyond the limit can be written without penalty. 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.

Late Submissions

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (OF THE TOTAL POSSIBLE MARK) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a grade of '0' will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical concern.

For example:

Number of days (hours) late	Total Possible Marks	Deduction	Raw mark	Final mark
1 day (1-24 hours)	100	5	75	70
2 days (24-48 hours)	100	10	75	65
3 days (48-72 hours)	100	15	75	60
7 days (144-168 hours)	100	35	75	40
>7 days (>168 hours)	100	-	75	0

For any late submissions of time-sensitive tasks, such as scheduled tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, and/or scheduled practical assessments/labs, students need to submit an application for Special Consideration. No extensions will be granted beyond 11.55pm on Monday 22nd May.

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. All students will be expected to attend campus for the Final Exam.

Students are expected to make themselves available for the final exam at the date and time set by the University, in line with the Assessment Policy and Procedure. Sitting the final exam is compulsory in order to be eligible to pass the unit. Any student who does not attempt the final exam will be granted a Fail Absent grade.

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.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Final Examination	45%	No	Final Exam Period
Report	35%	No	Week 8
Online mid-session quiz	20%	No	Week 7

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:

- Evaluate the historical and theoretical basis of psychological testing.
- Evaluate the theoretical and empirical bases of psychological tests used to assess the main domains of cognition and personality.
- Evaluate the application of psychological tests in a variety of domains of psychological

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

Report

Assessment Type ¹: Report

Indicative Time on Task ²: 35 hours

Due: **Week 8**

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

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:

- Evaluate 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.

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

As a student enrolled in this unit, you will engage in a range of online and face-to-face learning activities, including readings, online modules, videos, and lectures etc]. Details can be found on the iLearn site for this unit.

This unit is offered in two ways: In-Person-Scheduled Weekday (internal) and Online-Scheduled-In Person assessment (external). The lectures for PSYU3332 are delivered in the same way for both offerings of the unit, but the practicals differ. Please read the following sections carefully so that you understand attendance requirements for the offering you are enrolled in. For general information on unit versions, see this website: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/enrolling/choosing-units>

Lectures

For both offerings, there are no on-campus lectures. Two lectures (Week 1 and Week 6) will be conducted live on Zoom on a Tuesday from 12 - 2pm. The other lectures are delivered as pre-recorded material. 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 (Tuesday 12 - 2pm); sessions will be recorded and made available via iLearn.

Required readings associated with lectures will be listed in the lecture outlines posted on iLearn and 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 1.5-hour practicals. Students attend one 1.5-hour practical each fortnight.

For students enrolled in the In-Person-Scheduled Weekday (internal) offering, practicals are on-campus. For students enrolled in the Online-Scheduled-In Person assessment (external) offering you will attend classes via Zoom. Class availability can be seen via eStudent class enrolment: the location of the class indicates if it is an online class or an on-campus class. Note that enrolment in online classes does not mean that the entire unit will be taken online. Certain assessment tasks (for example, final exams) will be scheduled to have compulsory on-campus attendance.

Practicals 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.

Practicals are a fundamental aspect of this unit, 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 Readings

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 2022 is:

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

Other readings will be required for some learning activities and these are made available via Leganto on the iLearn site for this unit.

Technology Used

Active participation in the learning activities throughout the unit will require students to have access to a tablet, laptop or similar device. Students who do not own their own laptop computer may borrow one from the university library.

Unit Schedule

Week	Lectures	Practicals
1	<p>Live via Zoom Tues 12-2pm: Unit information – objectives, assessment, organization (Sivananthan)</p> <p>Recorded: Introduction to psychological assessment. Overview of types of tests. (Peters)</p>	
2	<p>Recorded: Test scores. Norms. Reliability: Types; Sources of error; Methods of calculating (Peters)</p>	Practical 1: Test construction (the assignment is based on this practical)
3	<p>Recorded: Reliability: Reliability and standard error of measurement; worked examples</p> <p>Validity: Types; Methods of determining validity</p> <p>Relationship between reliability and validity (Peters)</p>	
4	<p>Recorded: Test Construction (Peters)</p>	Practical 2: Analysis of test data (the assignment is based on this practical also)
5	<p>Recorded: Item Response Theory (Peters/Baillie)</p>	

6	<p>Live via Zoom Tues 12-2pm: Revision for the midsession exam (Sivananthan)</p> <p>Recorded: Assignment requirements (Sivananthan; available by the end of Week 6)</p>	Practical 3: Test fairness, test bias and testing special groups
7	MIDSESSION EXAM No lecture this week	
Midsession Recess		
8	Recorded: Assessment of Intelligence: Theoretical Issues (Todorov)	Practical 4: IQ testing with the Wechsler tests
9	Recorded: Assessment of Intelligence: Clinical Issues (Todorov)	
10	Recorded: Ethical issues in the use of psychological assessment (Peters)	Practical 5: Current Issues in IQ Testing
11	Recorded: Personality Assessment: Self-report Inventories (Peters)	
12	Recorded: Personality Assessment: Other techniques (Peters)	
13	No lecture this week	Practical 6: Personality test administration, scoring and interpretation

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](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution 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

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Grading

Macquarie University follow standards-based assessment of student performance. All individual assessment tasks are subject to moderation, consistent with the Assessment Policy and Procedure. A student's final mark for this unit, and associated grade, must reflect their attainment of the unit learning outcomes, and isn't necessarily a simple summation of their individual assessment items.

Student Support

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

The Writing Centre

[The Writing Centre](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Workshops](#)
- [Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the 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

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via [AskMQ](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

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.

Inclusion and Diversity

Social inclusion at Macquarie University is about giving everyone who has the potential to benefit from higher education the opportunity to study at university, participate in campus life and flourish in their chosen field. The University has made significant moves to promote an equitable, diverse and exciting campus community for the benefit of staff and students. It is your responsibility to contribute towards the development of an inclusive culture and practice in the areas of learning and teaching, research, and service orientation and delivery. As a member of the Macquarie University community, you must not discriminate against or harass others based on their sex, gender, race, marital status, carers' responsibilities, disability, sexual orientation, age, political conviction or religious belief. All staff and students are expected to display appropriate behaviour that is conducive to a healthy learning environment for everyone.

Professionalism

In the Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences, professionalism is a key capability embedded in all our courses.

As part of developing professionalism, students are expected to attend all small group interactive sessions including clinical, practical, laboratory, work-integrated learning (e.g., PACE placements), and team-based learning activities. Some learning activities are recorded (e.g.,

face-to-face lectures), however you are encouraged to avoid relying upon such material as they do not recreate the whole learning experience and technical issues can and do occur. As an adult learner, we respect your decision to choose how you engage with your learning, but we would remind you that the learning opportunities we create for you have been done so to enable your success, and that by not engaging you may impact your ability to successfully complete this unit. We equally expect that you show respect for the academic staff who have worked hard to develop meaningful activities and prioritise your learning by communicating with them in advance if you are unable to attend a small group interactive session.

Another dimension of professionalism is having respect for your peers. It is the right of every student to learn in an environment that is free of disruption and distraction. Please arrive to all learning activities on time, and if you are unavoidably detained, please join activity as quietly as possible to minimise disruption. Phones and other electronic devices that produce noise and other distractions must be turned off prior to entering class. Where your own device (e.g., laptop) is being used for class-related activities, you are asked to close down all other applications to avoid distraction to you and others. Please treat your fellow students with the utmost respect. If you are uncomfortable participating in any specific activity, please let the relevant academic know.