# PSYC332

## Principles of Psychological Assessment

S2 Day 2013

*Psychology*

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## Disclaimer

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Unit Convenor
Lorna Peters
lorna.peters@mq.edu.au
Contact via lorna.peters@mq.edu.au
C3A 712

Credit points
3

Prerequisites
PSY248 and (PSY234 or PSY246)

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://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates

Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of this unit, 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
- 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)

**Assessment Tasks**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online Quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>2pm each Wednesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midsession Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>4th September 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written Report</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>10am 2nd October 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>During the Examination Period</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Online Quizzes**

**Due:** 2pm each Wednesday  
**Weighting:** 10%

Brief online quizzes will be available to students via iLearn for one week after each lecture. These online quizzes will contain a few multiple-choice questions that will test students’ ability to remember and understand the core concepts from the lecture. Students will be provided with feedback on their own performance at the end of the week in which the quiz is available. The scores you obtain on the quizzes will be counted in your final mark for the unit if the scores optimize your mark. If included, quizzes will be worth 10% of your final mark on the unit. While the score for quizzes may not be included in your final mark (if you gain a better mark without them included), it is highly recommended that you complete the quizzes, as they will allow you to assess your progress in learning the 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
- 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)

**Midsession Exam**

**Due:** 4th September 2013  
**Weighting:** 20%

A midsession exam will be conducted between 2pm and 4pm in W6D Lotus Theatre on 4th
September, 2013 (Week 6). All students, including those enrolled in iLecture mode, must ensure that they are available to be on campus at that time. There is no separate arrangement available for evening students to sit the midsession exam. Students with surnames beginning with A-M will attend between 2pm and 3pm and students with surnames beginning with L-Z will attend between 3pm and 4pm. The midsession exam will test students’ ability to apply and analyse the statistics introduced in the lectures in weeks 1 – 4. Students will need to bring a calculator, but no other materials will be allowed during the exam. 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 tests. Different data 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 feedback via the iLearn page for the unit on their performance three weeks after the exam. Feedback will be in the form of a mark for the exam and the worked solutions for the questions in the exam.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Remember, understand and apply statistical procedures to describe the psychometric properties of a test

Written Report

Due: 10am 2nd October 2013
Weighting: 35%

A written report, in APA format, will be due on Wednesday 2nd October, 2013. Students should submit their assignment by 10am in the locked assignment boxes in the foyer of C3A. The marked report will be returned in tutorials during week 13. The report will be based on Tutorials 1 and 2 and will report on the construction and psychometric properties of a brief test developed in the tutorial. The requirements of the assignment will be covered in the Lecture in Week 5. The report will assess students’ ability to understand, apply, and analyse the psychometric properties of a test and the steps involved in test construction. The report will also assess the students’ ability to evaluate psychometric statistics and generate hypotheses about how the psychometric statistics may be improved. The report will assess students’ ability to communicate in one of the ways that is common in the profession of psychology (APA formatted paper in the style of a journal article). 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. Feedback will be provided relative to those criteria.

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
Final Exam

Due: During the Examination Period
Weighting: 35%

During the final exam period, students will complete a 2-hour multiple choice exam (60 questions) which will assess recall, understanding, and application of the theoretical and empirical bases of personality and intelligence assessment introduced in weeks 9 – 10 and 12 - 13 as well as memory, understanding and application of the principles of psychometric testing examined in the tutorial classes throughout the Session and of the material from lectures in weeks 11 (application of assessment techniques) and 7 (item response theory). Marks for the final exam will be posted on the iLearn page for the unit at the conclusion of the formal examination period. The exam will be weighted at 35% or 45% depending on whether the optional online quiz score is included in your mark.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- 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)

Delivery and Resources

Lectures

There will be one 2-hour lecture per week, given on Wednesday 2-4pm in W6D (Lotus Theatre) each week of the Session.

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

Recordings of lectures will be made available via Echo. You can download the lecture recording from the iLearn page for the unit.

Tutorials

There are six 2-hour tutorials associated with this unit. Every student will attend one two-hour tutorial each fortnight. Tutorials begin in week 3 of session. Set reading will be required prior to some tutorials.

All tutorial material is assessable either in the assignment or in the final exam.

Attendance at tutorials is strongly advised – the material is assessable, but more importantly, it is in the tutorials that the application of material from lectures is discussed and demonstrated.

Recommended Text and Materials

Tutorial outlines
Tutorial outlines will be available via the iLearn page for the unit. Make sure that you bring the tutorial outline to each tutorial class. It is recommended that you read the relevant section before going to class.

**Recommended Texts**

Any recent text on Psychological Assessment will more than likely cover the main content of the unit. The text that is recommended for the unit in 2013 is:


**Supplementary Readings**

Supplementary readings may be provided by each lecturer for his/her section of the course. In addition, some of the tutorials have set readings. These and other relevant books and articles should be in Special Reserve. Many of the readings are available via the e-Reserve web page at the library.

**Unit Web Page**

You can access the online materials for this unit via iLearn. Announcements will be available once you have logged in. You can link to lecture recordings from the web page as well as download the overheads for each lecture. There will be an active student Forum. The on-line Quizzes can only be accessed from iLearn.

**Unit Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Tutorials</th>
<th>Lectures (Wed 2-4pm; W6D Lotus Theatre or via Echo recordings available via iLearn)</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>31/7/13: Unit information – objectives, assessment, organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Introduction to psychological assessment. Overview of types of tests. Test scores. Norms (Peters)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>7/8/13: Reliability: Types; Sources of error; Methods of calculating (Peters)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tutorial 1: Test construction (the assignment is based on this tutorial)</td>
<td>14/8/13: Reliability: Reliability and standard error of measurement; worked examples Validity: Types; Methods of determining validity Relationship between reliability and validity (Peters)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>21/8/13: Test Construction (Peters)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/policy.html). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- **Special Consideration Policy** [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/special_consideration/policy.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/special_consideration/policy.html)
In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the Learning and Teaching Category of Policy Central.

Student Support
Macquarie University provides a range of Academic Student Support Services. Details of these services can be accessed at: http://students.mq.edu.au/support/

UniWISE provides:
- Online learning resources and academic skills workshops http://www.students.mq.edu.au/support/learning_skills/
- Personal assistance with your learning & study related questions.
- The Learning Help Desk is located in the Library foyer (level 2).
- Online and on-campus orientation events run by Mentors@Macquarie.

Student Enquiry Service
Details of these services can be accessed at http://www.student.mq.edu.au/ses/.

Equity 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.

IT Help
If you wish to receive IT help, we would be glad to assist you at http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/.

When using the university's IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use Policy. The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students and it outlines what can be done.

Graduate Capabilities

Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills
Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes
- 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
• 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)

Assessment tasks

• Online Quizzes
• Midsession Exam
• Written Report
• Final Exam

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

• 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)

Assessment tasks

• Midsession Exam
• Written Report

Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in
order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- 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 application of psychological tests in a variety of domains of psychological practice (e.g., organisational and clinical contexts)

**Assessment tasks**

- Midsession Exam
- Written Report

**Creative and Innovative**

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Assessment task**

- Written Report

**Effective Communication**

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Assessment task**

- Written Report

**Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens**

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social
justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcome**

- Understand the application of psychological tests in a variety of domains of psychological practice (e.g., organisational and clinical contexts)

**Assessment task**

- Final Exam

**Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible**

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Assessment task**

- Written Report

**Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative**

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Generate a psychological test and examine its adequacy using empirical procedures
- Understand the application of psychological tests in a variety of domains of psychological practice (e.g., organisational and clinical contexts)

**Assessment tasks**

- Midsession Exam
- Written Report
- Final Exam

**Commitment to Continuous Learning**

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they
participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Assessment tasks**

- Online Quizzes
- Written Report