**Assignment Brief: Assessment 2 – Written Report**

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|  | **Learning Outcome** | **Threshold Assessment Criteria** |
| 1 | Use knowledge and understanding of academic and ethical conventions and the research process to review published research. | Communicate clearly to your target audience.  Evaluate and select appropriate research methods.  Summarise and synthesise subject content. |
| 2 | Demonstrate the ability to use knowledge of the research process to evaluate the way in which research has been designed and the conclusions that have been reached. | Demonstrate understanding of reliability in relation to research.  Demonstrate knowledge of research methods.  Undertake basic evaluation of methods and outcomes.  Demonstrate the ability to structure your work appropriately. |

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| **Outcomes being developed and assessed** | | |
| Analysis | Application | Synthesis |

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| **TYPE & WEIGHTING** | **Written Report** (weight 75%) |
| **LENGTH** | 2000 Words (+/- 10%) + 500 word reflection |
| **GENERAL** | You will be required to identify two or more pieces of research that have been undertaken in a subject area that you have chosen in consultation with your tutor and present a structured report which presents an overview of the research studies, identifies and assesses the methods used to collect the ‘data’ and draws conclusions about the reliability of the outcomes that have been identified (2,000 words – 80% of the marks for this assessment). You will also submit a short reflective account in which you will identify what you learned about the subject area and the research process in preparing the report (500 words – 20% of the marks for this assessment). |
| **GENERAL CRITERIA** | Select 2(or more) pieces of academicresearch which could be in the form of; journal articles, government reports (E.G. NHS), scientific reports, or global organisation reports (E.G. WHO, UN etc.). Ideally this should be related to your proposed degree subject (Psychology of Applied Social Studies), you may choose to write this report using some of the sources that you located to do your presentation for assessment 1. However, please remember that it is expected that you will have undertaken a considerable amount more reading and progressed significantly between then and now. Both pieces of research should be in the same subject area.  This assessment has two components, both are listed below with some information to help:  **Structured report** (2000 words) structure:  **Title**  Please make your own title. This should be short and concise and encompass the topic of research that you are discussing.  **Introduction**  This should present an overviewof each of the research studies whilst introducing the overarching topics, highlighting key theories and/or approaches.  **Main Body**  This section should focus on the specific empirical details of the studies that you have chosen. It is important that your report:   * Discusses the typeof research carried out * Identifies and assesses the methodsused to collect data (include sampling) * Compares and contrasts the pros and cons of the two pieces of research. * Summarises the overall findings of the pieces of research you have chosen.   **Conclusion**  Your conclusion should provide an overall summary of the pieces of research that have been discussed. It should then attempt to draw conclusions about the reliability and validity of the claims made in the pieces of research.  **Reflexive account** (500 words) in which you should:  1. Identify what you learned about the subject areathrough preparing for the report.  2. Identify what you have learned about the research process, in preparation for this report and during this unit of study.  **References**  References should be included in APA (for Psychology Students) or Harvard (for Applied Social Studies students). All information provided in the report should be correctly cited and referenced. |
| **ADVICE** | To start writing this report you first need to locate at least two journal articles of your choice (preferably in your chosen study area (Psychology or Applied Socials Studies). You will do this using the discover system.  Make sure you attend every lecture and tutorial as support will be provided and questions answered in relation to this report.  Please read the Assessment section on BREO for any additional information that may be required.  Ensure that you read broadly. Look for specific journal articles from academic sources, NOT Wikipedia or similar sources.  Write in your own words.  Do not write in the first person. |
| **FEEDBACK** | You will receive feedback based on the University’s 2Q system. That is, there will be comments about the extent to which you met the criteria for the report and what you could do to improve. Thus the feedback provided can help you improve your knowledge and skills in this area which can be applied to similar tasks in the future. Additional comments and advice may be provided, please use these in addition to the 2Q system in order to improve for future assignments. |
| **SUPPORT** | You will be provided continued support related to your assessments throughout the unit during lectures and tutorials, therefore it is essential that you attend all sessions to ensure you don't miss anything. There is also extensive information regarding the assessments in the assessment brief and on BREO within the ‘assessment’ tab. If you require any support outside of this, or would like support and clarification of feedback you should make full use of staff office hours.  You may also wish to avail of the Study Hub services to assist you with any specific skills you wish to develop further (including academic writing, referencing, finding information, or managing your learning). Information on these services can be found here: <http://lrweb.beds.ac.uk/studyhub>. Their services are fantastic and can help students of all abilities improve their grades. |
| **MARKING PROCESS** | The University has in place a range of processes to ensure that standards are set at an appropriate level and are consistently applied. These involve assignment setting, moderation, external examining and collective decision-making at examination and scheme boards.  This assessment has been internally (within the course team) and externally reviewed to ensure that it is accurate and fulfils the requirements of all relevant external bodies.  To ensure fairness this assessment will be graded anonymously. You should therefore ensure that you do not put your name or anything that can identify yourself either in the title or within the assessment. Your identity will only be revealed after internal grading and moderation is complete unless there is an exceptional circumstance where it is in the student’s interest that this rule is waived.  The teaching team will first mark all scripts. Following this a representative sample of the scripts will be second marked by another member of the team. External examiners will ensure that the moderation process is in line with university specifications and will review a sample of the scripts before the grades can be agreed at the examination board. |
| **SUBMISSION** | Submission is in electronic format only. You DO NOT need to submit a hard copy. Only the electronic version will be marked.  Please note any special instructions on BREO when you come to submit.  The submission deadline is at 10:00am of the date below. Late work will not be marked. |
| **SUBMISSION DATE** | 8th June 2018 |
| **FFEDBACK & GRADE RETURN DATE** | 6th July 2018 |
| **MITIGATION** | If you have mitigating circumstances i.e. serious or exceptional factors outside your control which will impact on your ability to submit the essay then please speak to the Student Engagement and Mitigation Team (SEAM) as soon as possible. You can contact the SEAM Team through the Student Support reception on the second floor of the Campus Centre in Luton and in the H building in Bedford.  For out sites, distance learners or if you cannot make it on to campus, email [mitigation@beds.ac.uk](mailto:mitigation@beds.ac.uk).  Information on the process of applying to the mitigation team can be found here:  <http://www.beds.ac.uk/studentlife/studentsupport/cant-hand-in-a-piece-of-work-or-sit-an-exam>  **If you have been granted mitigating circumstances for this assessment please contact the unit co-ordinator and forward your email confirmation from the SEAM team. It is essential that you do this as soon as possible prior to the submission deadline.** |

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| **STRUCTURE**  Should have a clear a logical flow and avoid jumping backwards and forwards. | There is little or no structure. | There is very little by the way of structure and the links between your information are tenuous resulting in some confusion during your report. | The structure of your report is disjointed and could benefit from reorganizing to make it more logical and improve its flow. | Your structure is reasonable but there is some lack of flow and your approach could have been more logical. | Your structure is good and generally flows well. | An excellent structure that flows logically through the report. |
| **INTRODUCTION**  This should present an overview of each of the research studies whilst introducing the overarching topics, highlighting key theories and/or approaches. | No introduction. | Little introduction provided, no clear overview of the topic is given. | Your introduction lacks clarity and is not concise. Remember your introduction should help establish what is to come in the rest of the report. | Your introduction presents the research and overarching topic area. More detail could have been provided and aspects were unclear. | A good introduction which introduces the topic and related research. Aspects could have been covered in more detail or explained clearer. | An excellent introduction which introduces the topic and related research articles well. |
| **MAIN BODY**  Your main body should discuss, compare and contrast the articles you have chosen with a focus on empirical information and results. | Little or no main body content provided and/or large amounts of misunderstood information reported. | Limited description of the studies, additional information shows evidence of misunderstanding. | You have described your studies but have not included a comparison of empirical details. | You have given an account of the two pieces of research but your comparison of methods and/or results would benefit from greater clarity. | A good description and comparison of empirical information relating to the two studies. Some evidence that broader reading has supported this. | An excellent description and comparison of empirical information relating to the two studies. Evidence that broader reading has supported this. |
| **CONCLUSION**  Your conclusion should provide an overall summary of the pieces of research that have been discussed including drawing conclusions in relation to validity and reliability. | Very little or no conclusion. | A very brief or overly wordy conclusion that doesn’t summarize the key points of the main body. | Your conclusion doesn’t fully summarize the main body and there is no mention of validity and reliability in reference to the pieces of research discussed. | Your conclusion summarises the key points of the main body. However, you could have focused more on concluding on the reliability and validity. | A good conclusion that summarizes the key points of the main body. You have offered some conclusion on the validity and reliability of the research discussed. | A comprehensive and very well written conclusion that summarizes the key points of the main body. You have considered and concluded well on validity and reliability of the research discussed. |
| **CITATIONS AND REFERENCES.**  You should include citations for all information. Each citation should have a corresponding reference in the reference section. The Reference section should not have references that were not cited in the text. | Very poor referencing or Citations and References have been almost entirely omitted. | You have included some citations and referencing but you either have a lot of information with no citations or have not used APA/Harvard formatting correctly. | Your referencing needs improving. | Your referencing is generally fine but there are some glitches. | Your referencing is generally good with few errors although there are some minor ones. You demonstrate a range of background reading. | Well done. You have used a range of relevant primary sources and your referencing is excellent. |