
ORIGINS OF INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES – ASSESSMENT BRIEF

The assessment on this module comprises both coursework and an exam. The coursework will constitute 30% of your final mark. The examination makes up the remaining 70% of the final mark. To pass the module you will need to achieve a final aggregate mark of 40% or above.

Coursework component

For the coursework component of this module you should produce **one** piece of writing, no more than 2000 words in length. Your essay should be written as if you writing to a **fellow student who has not yet studied this module**. Thus, you can expect the reader to have some background knowledge, but key concepts and terms need to be defined clearly, as if you are explaining them to a peer in an academic style. You should use an academic tone of writing and include relevant references to the scientific literature throughout your essay.

Coursework topic: Write an essay providing insights into the causes of individual differences in a particular phenotype, using at least **three different perspectives** (e.g. a genetic perspective, environmental perspective, gender perspective, etc). Within each perspective, **describe one study design in detail** (e.g. GWAS, twin study, epidemiological case-control study, etc), **explaining how this design is informative about the causes of your chosen phenotype**. **Discuss examples of concrete study findings for each study design described**. Focus your essay on **one** of the following three phenotypes:

1. General cognitive ability
2. Anxiety disorder
3. Autism spectrum disorder

You are free to interpret these phenotypes narrowly or more broadly. For example, you could only write about the origins of 'g' in essay topic 1, focus on one specific type of anxiety disorder in topic 2, or examine only clinically diagnosed autism spectrum disorder in essay topic 3. You can also interpret these phenotypes in a broader manner, and for example, include a wider range of cognitive abilities in your essay topic 1, draw on several different anxiety disorders for topic 2, or discuss the origins of autistic traits in the general population in your essay topic 3.

Please refer to the document entitled 'Preparing Written Assessment' for details on penalties for over length answers and referencing. When submitting your coursework please include the standard 'Coversheet for BSc Psychology Submissions' with your written work.

Deadlines

There is no formative assessment of the coursework. Your coursework submission must be submitted via Turnitin by Monday **16 December 2019 10.30am**. Late submissions will be capped and, therefore, we strongly recommend that you submit your work well in advance of the deadline (i.e. at least the day before).

Examination component

The remaining 70% of your module result will be determined by an exam, consisting of twenty multiple choice questions (covering the breath of module topics) and two essay questions (assessing your in depth knowledge of the module topics). You can choose which two essay questions you prefer to answer from a list of four questions. You will have two hours to complete the examination,