



PSY390
Research Methods

Tutor-Marked Assignment 02
July 2020 Presentation

PSY390

TMA02

This tutor-marked assignment (TMA) is worth 25% of the final mark for PSY390 Research Methods.

The word limit for this assignment is 1,500 words.

Please upload this assignment to Turnitin by Wednesday, 26 August 2020, 11:55pm. Resubmissions are allowed before this cut-off time.

TMA format [*New! Please take note*]

- Download and complete the new **TMA Cover Page** (screenshot below) from Canvas L01 > Modules > Assessments.
- Acknowledge that you have read the self-declaration on academic integrity and submit it with your TMA. There will be a **penalty of 5 marks deduction** if the TMA cover page is incomplete, inaccurate or missing from the final submission of your TMA via Turnitin. **No appeals concerning the Cover Page will be entertained.**
- Use Times New Roman 12 point, double line spacing throughout.

Student's Name (official): [Click here to enter text.](#)

Student's PI: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Date of Submission: [Click or tap to enter a date.](#)

Course Code: PSY390

Assignment Type: TMA02

Please read and acknowledge the following self-declaration on academic integrity by **clicking all 3 check-boxes** (a cross will appear in the box) to indicate that you have understood and abided by each item.

Plagiarism or Self-Plagiarism	
<input type="checkbox"/>	The assignment I am submitting for this course is original and new work. All sources I have quoted or referred to while working on this assignment have been properly cited and acknowledged. This assignment is substantially my own work (i.e., I have not excessively quoted other people's work and have not copied chunks of text, word for word), and is not work that I have submitted for assessment previously for another course.
Collusion	
<input type="checkbox"/>	This assignment is entirely the product of my own effort. I have not sought help from other people, whether in person or electronically, and whether from persons known to me personally or otherwise.
Declaration	
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have read and understood Section 7.2.2 of the SUSS's Student Handbook on academic integrity, and am aware of the University's penalties for academic dishonesty, which include marks deduction and expulsion from the University. I bear full responsibility if my work is found to be the result of plagiarism and/or collusion.

In addition, please acknowledge the following:

- I have completed my assignment in accordance to the APA format.

[Respond Y/N](#)

IMPORTANT

A penalty of 5 marks deduction will be imposed if this cover page is incomplete, inaccurate or missing from the final submission of your assignment.

No appeals concerning the Cover Page will be entertained.

For lecturers only

MARKS TABLE & FEEDBACK

		Possible Marks	Awarded
Part 1: Online Discussion Board		10	
Part 2: TMA02 Research Proposal	Q1. Introduction & Research questions	15	
	Q2. Literature review	30	
	Q3. Methodology	35	
	Referencing	5	
	English Competency	5	
TOTAL		100	0

Overall Feedback

Note to students: Please make sure you [read the feedback](#) given by your lecturers.

TMA submission – read these instructions carefully

- Backup your TMA at all times.
- Submit early and check the originality report for possible revision and resubmission.
- Turnitin reports are generated immediately the first time but subsequent reports may take up to a day to generate.
- Resubmissions (overwriting earlier submissions) are allowed before the deadline, but **NO** further resubmissions during the grace period or thereafter.
- Upload TMA in **Word document file** only (not in PDF), and strictly follow the **naming convention** specified for TMA files (Non-compliance to these standards might lead to an admin fee and/or the TMA not being marked).
- Upload **correct TMA file** to the **correct folder** of the **correct course**. Admin fee applies to appeals to transfer files to correct folder.
- 12-hour grace period after the deadline is **NOT** an extended deadline but solely is for resolving technical problems encountered with submissions before the deadline.
- In case of problems: Email Canvas Support LSsupport@suss.edu.sg immediately (with relevant **screenshots** and your **TMA attached**) and follow up with Canvas Support before the grace period is over.
- If there was no submission before the deadline, one late submission is allowed after the deadline for up to 1 week, after which **no more** late submissions will be allowed.
- Automatic marks deduction applies after the 12-hour grace period (refer to the marks deduction scheme in the Student Handbook). With this automatic deduction, there will be no need to request for extensions from your tutor because your tutor does not have the mandate to over-ride the Canvas system settings.
- Retain the Turnitin digital receipt as evidence of a successful submission. Appeals submitted without the Turnitin digital receipt will not be entertained.
- View your submission **immediately** to ensure that the entire document has been uploaded completely and successfully.

TMA Formatting Requirements

Margins: 1 inch (2.54 cm) margins on all sides (top, bottom, left, and right) of the page

Line spacing: Double-space the entire paper

Paragraph alignment: Align the text to the left and leave the right margin uneven

Paragraph indentation: Indent the first line of every paragraph 0.5 inch

Font: Use 12-point Times New Roman

Spelling: English (Singapore)

Word Limit

Please observe the word limit as writing succinctly is an important skill to acquire in academic writing. All text (including in-text citations) is included in the word count except the reference list, tables, figures, and appendices. Note that anything written beyond 10% of the word limit will not be marked.

English Competency

English competency is an assessable component of all TMAs and 5% of the total marks for each TMA have been allocated to this component. It is important that you write clearly and accurately, using correct grammar, punctuation and spelling.

Referencing

Follow the APA7 format as described in the “PSY Referencing Guide”. Appropriate in-text citations and an accurately formatted Reference section are expected. FIVE (5) marks have been allocated for this component. More information about formatting in APA7 can be found in the APA website: <http://www.apastyle.org/index.aspx>

Referencing Formatting Requirements (APA7)

- Start the **References** on a new page (bold and centred).
- Present the reference list in alphabetical order by first author surname.
- Do not number the reference items/entries.
- Each entry should observe hanging indentation (i.e., if the reference goes on to a second line, the second line onwards must be indented).
- Provide the doi if available.
- Books:
 - Title in italics (apply Sentence Case – only the first letter of the first word is capitalised and the first letter of the first word after a colon is capitalised)
 - Publisher name (no need to provide place of publication)
- Journals:
 - Article title not in italics (apply Sentence Case)
 - Journal name in italics (apply Title Case - the first letter of most words are capitalised)
 - Volume number in italics
 - Issue number within brackets not in italics (provide if available)
 - Page range not in italics (provide full page range, e.g., 100-123, not 100 or 100-23)

Example:

References

Collins, A. M., & Loftus, E. F. (1975). A spreading-activation theory of semantic processing. *Psychological Review*, 82(6), 407–428. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0033-295X.82.6.407>

Gardner, H. (1999). *Intelligence reframed: Multiple intelligences for the 21st century*. Basic Books.

Plagiarism and Collusion

The assignment is to be completed on your own. You may discuss the TMA with your course-mates, however, the assignment must be written up independently. Do not share your notes, draft or final TMA with anyone before the marked TMAs are returned to you.

Avoid plagiarism by giving yourself sufficient time to research and understand the material so that you can write up your assignment in your own words. Quotations should be used sparingly. Simply citing the source of ‘copied’ chunks of text does not excuse it from plagiarism. Do

ensure that any paraphrasing is done appropriately (even if you use text from your own work that you have submitted as part of another assignment of the same or another course).

The University takes a very serious view of plagiarism (passing off someone else's ideas as your own, or recycling of contents from your own earlier marked TMA from the same course or another course) and collusion (submitting an assignment which is the same or very similar to another student's). Both are very serious academic offences. Please refer to the Student Handbook on the penalties of plagiarism or collusion. You are strongly advised to submit your TMA early, check the plagiarism report yourself, and if needed revise and resubmit your TMA before the submission deadline.

Pre-seminar Tasks – not related to TMA02 (10 marks)

This component requires you to complete pre-seminar tasks before attending Seminars 2-6 to earn the 10 marks, regardless of whether you actually attend the seminar sessions or not. Please refer to a separate PDF document entitled “Pre-seminar Tasks (Seminars 2-6)” for more information.

Marks allocation at a glance

5 marks will be deducted if the new TMA Cover Page is incomplete, inaccurate or missing.		Marks	Word limit
Part 1: Online Discussion Board		10	—
Part 2: TMA02 Research proposal	Q1	15	300
	Q2	30	500
	Q3.	35	700
	Referencing	5	—
	English competency	5	—
Total		100	1,500

Note: All marks will be awarded only with the TMA submission via Turnitin.

Part 1: Online Discussion Board (10 marks)

Separate instructions for pre-seminar tasks will be given for this component of TMA02 before PSY390 starts. Here are five pre-seminar tasks. You are required to complete each pre-seminar task before its respective seminar, regardless of whether you attend that seminar.

Part 2: TMA02 Research Proposal (90 marks)

Prepare a research proposal in response to a request from a local library. Assume that the library's board will provide ample funding and support to meet their high expectations for a rigorous study.

The problem scenario: This library's visitor records show that very few teenagers visit the library. The ones who come do not stay as long as younger children and adults do. Also, a recent survey indicated that, of the different age groups, teens were the least satisfied with their library experience. The library's board earnestly hopes to be guided by your research evidence as they try to improve the quality of teens' library experiences.

Your design options: Select **ONE** of these two designs for your proposed study:

- true experimental design with a positivist approach
- grounded theory design with an interpretive approach

Before you pick a design, decide what the focus of your study will be. Read academic articles on topics related to the key concepts in the given scenario. A good place to start is our SUSS library. There is ample scholarly literature that you can access online through the library. Once you have narrowed your focus, compare and contrast the strengths and weaknesses of the two research design options to decide which would best achieve your study's purpose.

Your research proposal should include the following sections:

1. Introduction
2. Purpose and research questions
2. Literature review
3. Methodology
4. References
5. Appendices

Develop your research proposal using the following guidelines. The number of words suggested for each section is a rough guide — your number of words per section may differ from the suggested ones but the overall word count must not exceed 1,500.

Question 1: Introduction and Research Questions (15 marks, 300 words)

Provide the background as an engaging lead into your proposed study. Define the research problem and explain your rationale for your proposed focus. Articulate the purpose of your study. Construct specific research questions (RQs) that address the purpose. Provide operational definitions for key concepts.

Tips for writing the introduction:

- The aim of the Introduction section is to give the reader an overview of your proposed study. Have a strong lead in that engages the reader.
- Tell the reader why it is important to study the quality of teens' library experiences, and how your proposed study would add value to library services in Singapore. Define key concepts.
- Although this section would be the first in your written proposal, it often makes sense to finalise it only after you have drafted all the other sections.

Tips for crafting your research questions:

- Your purpose statement and other RQs must be aligned with the research design that you have selected. Its research approach should also inform the crafting of RQs.
- Present brief operational definitions in glossary style.

Question 2: Literature Review (30 marks, 500 words)

Present a review of scholarly literature relevant to your proposed study. Demonstrate how the research designs used by these studies might have influenced their findings.

Tips for conducting your literature review:

- The aim of this section is to provide the reader with your critique — strengths and shortfalls — of past research on this topic, and how that led you to develop your research questions.

Summarise the most relevant past research. Comment on studies done on each area covered by your RQs. Tell us how your review guided the development of your research questions.

- Your literature review should convince the reader that your proposed study will make a valuable contribution to existing knowledge about teens' experiences of libraries.

Question 3: Methodology (35 marks, 700 words)

Compare and contrast the strengths and weaknesses of the two research design options to decide which would best achieve your study's purpose. Propose an appropriate research design that would address the research questions. Apply your knowledge of research concepts to develop the sampling, data collection and analyses methodologies. Examine your methodologies for potential issues and highlight them as anticipated limitations.

Tips for designing your methodology

- The aim of the Methodology section is to allow the reader to understand how you intend to conduct your study using either a true experiment or a grounded theory design.
- You should be able to demonstrate your knowledge of the various elements of your chosen design and its approach.
- **Methodology sections:** Methodology typically covers the proposed study's design, sample (target population, sampling frame, sample characteristics and size, sampling methods), data collection methods (including any instruments), data analysis methods, research ethics, research rigour (e.g., reliability and validity in quantitative research), and anticipated limitations. Each of these should be a sub-section with its own sub-headings under Methodology.
- Explain why your methods are suitable and appropriate for addressing your RQs. Be as clear and detailed as possible, to the extent that you could pass it to someone else who would then be able to conduct the study based only on what you have written.

References (not included in word count) – Give the full reference for every citation in your proposal. Strictly follow the APA 7th edition style guide. You are required to cite **at least five journal articles or book chapters** (excluding the textbook and study guide). Do note that internet references such as Wikipedia and YouTube are not scholarly. Reminder: filter references out when you run your TMA02 through Turnitin.

Appendices (not included in word count) – Appendices are useful if you have an overflow of information in any of your proposal's main sections. You may also wish to present, for instance, a draft questionnaire or observation checklist as an appendix. Reminder: filter appendices out when you run your TMA02 through Turnitin.

References (5 marks) - Use APA 7 only

The References section lists the full reference of all sources cited or referred to in your assignment.

There will be no awarding of 1, 2, or 3 marks.

5 marks: Perfect in-text citations and reference list (minimum of 5 references cited).

4 marks: 1 or 2 minor stylistic or formatting errors (minimum of 5 references cited).

0 marks: Fails to meet the above requirements.

English competency (5 marks)

5 marks: Extremely well-written with no grammatical/spelling/punctuation errors.

4 marks: Well-written with one or two grammatical/spelling/punctuation errors.

3 marks: Fairly well-written but with a number of grammatical/spelling/punctuation errors.

2 marks: Poorly written with grammatical/spelling/punctuation errors which affect coherence.

0-1 mark: Badly written with serious grammatical/spelling/punctuation errors.

Generic Band Descriptors for Students

Excellent answer

- shows a clear and thorough understanding of the topic concerned by covering relevant points accurately and comprehensively in a well-structured, focused and cohesive manner
- provides excellent illustrations/examples/supporting evidence
- shows very strong evidence of critical thinking/analysis and in-depth understanding
- goes beyond expectation and shows original thinking

Good to Very Good answer

- shows a good to very good understanding of the topic concerned by covering relevant points accurately in a well-structured, focused and cohesive manner
- provides good illustrations/examples/supporting evidence
- shows good evidence of critical thinking/analysis and in-depth understanding

Fair answer

- shows a fair understanding of the topic concerned by covering relevant points adequately, but may not always be well structured, focused and cohesive
- provides adequate illustrations or examples, however, they may not always be appropriate
- shows little evidence of critical thinking/analysis and lacks in-depth understanding

Weak answer

- shows only rudimentary understanding of the topic concerned and only manages to cover a relevant point or two adequately, but is not well structured, focused and cohesive
- attempts to provide illustrations or examples, however, they are generally inappropriate or irrelevant
- shows no evidence of critical thinking
- may contain inaccuracies and omissions

Poor answer (borderline pass)

- does not show adequate understanding of the topic concerned and may not sufficiently cover any of the relevant points
- does not provide illustrations or examples
- tends to be descriptive and may be off-point
- contains errors and misconceptions

Fail (less than 40%)

- shows very little understanding of the topic concerned and does not cover any of the relevant points
- fails to provide illustrations or examples
- attempts to describe but is off-point
- contains serious errors and misconceptions

Bad Fail (less than 15%)

- shows no understanding of the question
- some marks may be awarded if there is evidence that some effort was made to make sense of the question

--- End of TMA ---