



HUMAN PERFORMANCE

M6X00915

ASSIGNMENT GUIDANCE

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SEE MODULE MOODLE PAGE

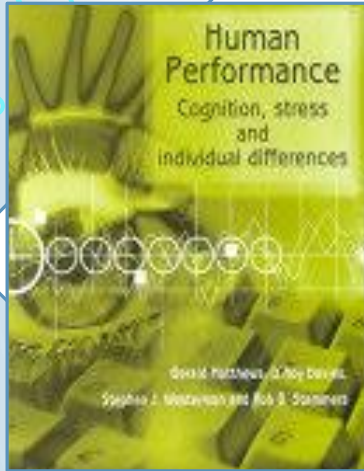
Under the “Module Assessment Information”
Toggle you will find.....

- Details regarding the assignment

- The Assignment Proforma

- Submission date

RELEVANT READINGS:



Matthews et al. (2000). *Human Performance: Cognition, stress and individual differences*. Hove: Psychology Press.

Chapter 13: Sub-sections 13.5, 13.6, & 13.7

However: At Level 6 you should be going beyond secondary sources for your information. You should also be relying on building your arguments and discussions from peer-reviewed journal articles.

RELEVANT READINGS:

Chapter on Drugs and Cognitive Performance in:

Esgate et al. (2005). An introduction to applied cognitive psychology. Psychology Press.

Available online as E-book through library system.



RELEVANT READINGS: JOURNAL ARTICLES

Use relevant search engines

e.g., Google Scholar or The Library Database:

[Academic Search Premier](#)

[Medline](#)

[ProQuest Central](#)

[PsychArticles](#)

[Science Direct](#)

Type in Key words from the essay title in to these databases.

RELEVANT READINGS: JOURNAL ARTICLES

For Example....

Clifasefi, S. L., Takarangi, M. K., & Bergman, J. S. (2006). Blind drunk: The effects of alcohol on inattentional blindness. *Applied cognitive psychology*, 20(5), 697-704.

Houston, R. J., Derrick, J. L., Leonard, K. E., Testa, M., Quigley, B. M., & Kubiak, A. (2014). Effects of heavy drinking on executive cognitive functioning in a community sample. *Addictive behaviors*, 39(1), 345-349.

Some highly relevant research studies may have been published in journals that you would not necessarily think about straight away, so you may need to look beyond the more common/familiar journals.

IMPORTANCE OF THE “CRITICALLY DISCUSS” ELEMENT IN THE TITLE

- What does this mean?
- Think about both sides of the argument:
 - Drugs & alcohol lead to poor cognitive performance
 - Or under some circumstances can it lead to better performance?
- How should you set-up and structure your essay?

ESSAY STRUCTURE

- **Paragraph 1: Introduction –**
 - Introduce topic of the essay & explain what you intend to discuss.
 - Can explain what is meant by Cognitive tasks.
- **Paragraphs 2 to ...: Theoretical assumptions -**
 - Introduce and discuss theories. Are there any differences depending on the type of cognitive tasks discussed? Provide examples.
- **Following Paragraphs: Discuss empirical research**
 - Experimental research and Applied studies. You should be explicit as to whether those studies provide support or contradict the theories discussed.

WHEN DESCRIBING EMPIRICAL RESEARCH/ STUDIES YOU MUST ALWAYS INCLUDE.....

- Details of the A/D/P/F/C/C:
- A = Aims: What did the authors intend to examine.
- D = Design: What was the set-up of the study.
- P = Procedure: Brief details of what happened.
- F = Findings: What were the results.
- C = Conclusions: How do the findings relate to the area under investigation?
- C = Criticisms: Any issues with the study?
Design/Methodology/suitability for answering the particular research question/Other

ESSAY STRUCTURE

- Evaluate strengths & limitations of any theories/research you present and only use appropriate supporting empirical evidence for your critique and discussion.
- You can discuss drug consumption in terms of both legal and illegal drugs but should be clearly explained by and evidently related to how they influence performance on cognitive tasks.
- The type of cognitive tasks you choose to discuss can include decision making, response/reaction time, memory, attention, perceptual abilities, etc. –
 - but you must be specific as to whether these are examined experimentally in the lab or are cognitions that we engage in during real-world tasks.

ESSAY STRUCTURE

- **Penultimate paragraph: Implications –**
 - Discuss what the findings mean for human performance in general and for functioning in real-world scenarios.
- **Final paragraph: Conclusion/wrap-up –**
 - End the essay with a concluding paragraph that wraps everything up together.
- Any questions?