

Worksheet 7: Psychological contexts answers

1 Observation

Context A	Differences	Context B
The helping behaviours of young children in a preschool environment.	<i>Observing young children will require informed consent from parents/guardians. Helping behaviour may be harder to operationalise. Football fans at a match could be observed covertly/as a participant without explicit ethical consent. Data on verbal aggression could be collected using a checklist.</i>	Verbal aggression of football fans during a match.

2 Experiment

Context A	Differences	Context B
The effects of positive reinforcement on monkeys' ability to press buttons.	<i>Context A will require a lab environment whereas Context B could be conducted in the participants' own environment (field experiment). There are differences in the ethical guidelines for humans and those for animals. It may be easier to control variables such as diet within the monkeys' environment than in Context B.</i>	The influence of mindfulness exercises on dream content.

3 Interview

Context A	Differences	Context B
Cross-cultural attitudes towards personal space requirements.	<i>Participants may be influenced by different aspects of the interviewer's identity (i.e. culture or gender). Interviews for school leavers are likely to take place at the young person's school or home and may require parental/teacher consent. Context A might be more suitable for open questions which produce qualitative data on attitudes and beliefs, Context B might be more structured.</i>	Gender differences between career choices for school leavers.