

Worksheet 9: Ethical considerations answers

1 Fagen et al. (elephant learning)

Ethical Guideline	Description of guideline	How it was adhered to/ broken in study	Implication of issue
Pain, suffering and distress	Research causing the suffering or death of animals must be avoided	This study aimed to improve elephant well-being by designing an effective method for testing for disease	Adherence to this guideline made the study ethical and improved long-term outcomes for animals

2 Hölzel et al. (mindfulness and brain scans)

Ethical Guideline	Description of guideline	How it was adhered to/ broken in study	Implication of issue
Protection from harm	Participants should not be exposed to any greater physical or mental risk than in everyday life	Participants were experiencing stress and had to wait at least 8 weeks to get help	This issue is potentially serious and could worsen participant distress. It is unclear whether the researchers could have reduced the wait, however

3 Baron-Cohen et al. (eyes test)

Ethical Guideline	Description of guideline	How it was adhered to/ broken in study	Implication of issue
Confidentiality	Participant data must be kept secure and anonymous so they cannot be individually identified	Participants' data was anonymised so ASD and control group participants could not be identified	Confidentiality is important in this study because IQ scores and ASD diagnoses can be sensitive issues

4 Perry et al. (personal space)

Ethical Guideline	Description of guideline	How it was adhered to/ broken in study	Implication of issue
Deception	Actively lying to or misleading participants about the aim or another aspect of the study	In Experiment 2, no personal discussion took place, so participants were deliberately misinformed	Unlikely to cause distress to participants to be deceived in this way, and they were fully debriefed