7.5 Peer Review and the Reporting of Psychological Research: 10-minute Pack

AQA 7182 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Define the process of peer review as it is used before psychological research is published in an academic journal. Name the actors involved and the main purpose.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 Briefly state one economic implication of psychological research for society, for example how evidence-based interventions can affect public spending or productivity. Give a concise example.

(Total for Question 2 is 3 marks)

3 State two typical decisions a journal editor can make after receiving peer reviewers' reports on a psychology manuscript.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

4 Outline one limitation of the peer review process that can contribute to publication bias in psychological journals.

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

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Mark scheme · 7.5 Peer Review and the Reporting of Psychological Research: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

a system in which independent experts in the same field evaluate a submitted manuscript before publication oe	**B1**
to check methodological soundness, clarity, ethical handling and suitability for the journal oe	**B1**

Answer: Peer review is a system where independent experts in the same field examine a submitted manuscript before publication to check its methodological soundness, clarity, ethical handling and suitability for the journal.

Question 2

states an economic implication, e.g. evidence-based therapies can reduce long-term healthcare costs oe	**M1**
gives an example, e.g. effective CBT for depression can reduce sick leave and improve workplace productivity oe	**A1**
explains briefly why this matters for public spending or employer costs oe	**A1**

Answer: Evidence-based therapies can reduce long-term healthcare costs; for example, effective CBT for depression can reduce sick leave and increase workplace productivity, lowering costs to employers and the NHS.

Question 3

accept the manuscript for publication, possibly with minor edits oe	**B1**
reject the manuscript, or invite major revisions and resubmission oe	**B1**

Answer: The editor can accept the manuscript for publication (sometimes requesting minor edits), or reject it or invite major revisions and resubmission.

Question 4

identifies limitation: reviewers and editors tend to favour novel or statistically significant findings oe	**B1**
explains that this leads to publication bias because null results and replications are less likely to be published oe	**B1**

Answer: Reviewers and editors often favour novel or statistically significant results; this causes publication bias because null findings and replications are less likely to be accepted for publication.

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