

Section E Research methods

Answer **all** questions in the spaces provided.

Total for this question: 20 marks

5 A psychology student conducted an investigation into treatments for phobias. She wanted to find out which of the following was the more successful treatment:

- flooding
- systematic desensitisation.

This is what she did.

- She went to a clinic for people with phobias.
- She selected 10 people who were treated using flooding and 10 who were treated using systematic desensitisation.
- At the end of their treatment, each participant completed a questionnaire in which they rated the success of their treatment programme.

5 (a) The psychology student used opportunity sampling to obtain her sample. Outline how she could have done this.

[2 marks]

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5 (b) (i) The questionnaire contained both open questions and closed questions. The following question was asked on the questionnaire:

‘How do you feel after your treatment programme?’

This is an example of:
(Tick the correct box.)

[1 mark]

A closed question	<input type="checkbox"/>
An open question	<input type="checkbox"/>

Turn over ►



5 (b) (ii) Outline **one** advantage of using open questions in a questionnaire.

[2 marks]

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5 (b) (iii) Outline **one** advantage of using closed questions in a questionnaire.

[2 marks]

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5 (c) (i) The psychology student needed to consider ethical issues during her investigation. One issue was confidentiality and she dealt with this by not recording any personal details about the participants.

Apart from confidentiality, identify **one** other ethical issue that the psychology student should have considered.

[1 mark]

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5 (c) (ii) Briefly explain why the issue that you identified in your answer to **5(c)(i)** should have been considered in this study.

[2 marks]

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5 (c) (iii) Outline how she could have dealt with the issue that you identified in your answer to 5(c)(i).

[2 marks]

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Question 5 continues on the next page

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- 5 (d)** As part of the questionnaire, participants were also asked to rate the success of their treatment on a 10 point scale. The scale was 1–10, with 1 being no improvement and 10 being excellent improvement.

Table 1 Participant ratings of the success of the treatment

Participant	Flooding rating	Participant	Systematic Desensitisation rating
1	9	11	6
2	7	12	7
3	9	13	6
4	3	14	8
5	8	15	7
6	10	16	8
7	2	17	6
8	2	18	7
9	1	19	7
10	7	20	6
MEDIAN			7

- 5 (d) (i)** Using the information in **Table 1** above, work out the median rating for flooding.

[1 mark]

You may use this space to work out the median.

Median =



5 (d) (ii) Explain why the median ratings for flooding and systematic desensitisation could be misleading when drawing a conclusion about the success of these treatments.

[3 marks]

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5 (e) (i) The psychology student decided to carry out case studies using one participant from each of the two treatment groups. What is a case study?

[2 marks]

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5 (e) (ii) Outline **one** disadvantage of using case studies in psychological research.

[2 marks]

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20

END OF QUESTIONS

