

# Commentary on candidate evidence

The candidate evidence has achieved the following marks for this course assessment component (assignment).

## Candidate 1

### Topic: The impact of technology on sleep

The candidate achieved **32 marks** for this course assessment component.

#### Section A

The candidate was awarded **8 marks** because they have provided theoretical background related to their topic of sleep and described two relevant research studies:

- ◆ Description of relevant psychology theory/concept. **(4 marks)**
- ◆ Description of the aim, procedure and results of the Weaver et al (2010) study. **(2 marks)**
- ◆ Description of the aim, procedure and results of the Hysing et al (2015) study. **(2 marks)**

#### Section B

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** because the aim clearly relates to the background research of mobile phone usage and sleep **(1 mark)**. The hypothesis is operationalised with clear expression of the research variables of mobile phone use and time taken to fall asleep. **(1 mark)**

#### Section C

The candidate was awarded **5 marks** as they have provided 5 accurate descriptions of the method, as follows:

- ◆ The method used was accurately identified as non-experimental (questionnaire) and the design was accurately identified as correlation. **(1 mark)**
- ◆ A justification for the choice of method was given. **(1 mark)**
- ◆ The co-variables were accurately identified. **(1 mark)**
- ◆ Extraneous/confounding variables were given. **(1 mark)**
- ◆ The sampling technique was identified, and sufficient details of the sample were provided. **(1 mark)**

No mark was awarded for materials/procedure as there was no indication of how the questionnaires were distributed or returned. This meant replication would not be possible.

## Section D

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** because they have provided 2 accurate points of explanation of how British Psychological Society (BPS) ethical guidelines have been implemented. The candidate has identified appropriate ethical principles and has made some effort to relate them to their own study, for example: The candidate explained the use of a coding system instead of participant names and explained the confidential storage of the questionnaires in that they were only accessible to the researcher.

All other points were generic.

## Section E

The candidate was awarded **5 marks** because they have provided 5 accurate points of interpretation and presentation of data, as follows:

- ◆ An appropriate form of statistical analysis was chosen. **(1 mark)**
- ◆ Calculations were present in Appendices and accurate. **(1 mark)**
- ◆ Data was presented in an appropriate format (a summary table and scattergram). **(1 mark)**
- ◆ The title of the graph was appropriate, labels and legends were accurate and sufficient details were provided to permit interpretation. **(1 mark)**
- ◆ An accurate statement was provided about whether the results support or refute the hypothesis. **(1 mark)**

The justification of the choice of mean was general and did not relate to the candidate's own data set so no marks were awarded here.

## Section F

The candidate was awarded **4 marks** because they provided 4 relevant points of analysis as follows:

- ◆ A link was made between their results and their hypothesis. **(1 mark)**
- ◆ The candidate has explained how other variables may have impacted on sleep where participants may not have fully reflected on their sleep pattern. **(1 mark)**
- ◆ The candidate has related their results to the Hysing et al (2015) study. **(1 mark)**
- ◆ The candidate has explained a conclusion and included the relationship between the co-variables. **(1 mark)**

## Section G

The candidate was awarded **4 marks** because they made 4 evaluative points as follows:

- ◆ A weakness regarding the potential effect of distraction on questionnaire responses was explained. **(1 mark)**
- ◆ A strength of using questionnaires was explained. **(1 mark)**
- ◆ A weakness of using questionnaires related specifically to the candidate's own research was explained. **(1 mark)**
- ◆ A weakness regarding the sample size was explained. **(1 mark)**

## Section H

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** because the references were presented in such a way as to enable a third party to locate information (**1 mark**) and the candidate presented their research in the style and format of a psychological research report, written in the third person. The report was organised correctly, included a title, and all sections were in the correct order, with all appropriate information in the correct section. The candidate used appropriate terminology and the correct tense throughout (**1 mark**).