

Paper 3 ethical questions

SIX different ethical considerations should be covered in both question 2 options. However, the scope of the questions is a bit different.

Describe the ethical considerations that were applied in the study and **explain** if further ethical considerations could be applied.

This question puts stress on the actual study. How well did the method and procedure of the study follow ethical guidelines? The phrase **Peter Piper Cried When Charles Dickens Died** can be applied here conveniently. Pay close attention to what is mentioned in the stimulus material and what is not.

Describe the ethical considerations in reporting the results and **explain** additional ethical considerations that could be taken into account when applying the findings of the study.

Ethical considerations in reporting and applying the results of a study include:

- (1) *Reporting the individual results to participants*
 - **Primary findings** are those discovered as part of the main aim of the research => **consent form** should include information on how results will be communicated to participants
 - **Incidental findings** are those discovered unintentionally => researchers should develop a plan how to deal with these findings => **consent form** should include information on how incidental findings will be handled => participants should be able to **withdraw from the study**, if they don't feel comfortable about them
 - **Risks and benefits:** What are the risks and the benefits for the participants in disclosing the findings, both primary and incidental?
 - The following guidelines will be considered by the ethics committee:
 - Make decisions that maximise benefits and minimize harms
 - Respect a participant's will to know or not to know results of the study
 - Take into account the extent to which the testing procedure is reliable

- (2) *Publishing the findings*
 - **Confidentiality:** How can the researchers make sure that the identity of the participants is protected?
 - **Data fabrication:** How can researcher make sure that all the data is from the actual research?
 - **Sharing data for verification:** How can transparency of the research process be secured in publishing the results?
 - **Social implications for reporting scientific results:** To what kind of audience should the findings be aimed at? What kind of risks do the findings have on the scientific community and society in general?

- (3) *Applying the findings*
 - **Generalizability:** How can the results of the study be applied outside the research in an ethical manner?
 - **Credibility:** What are the limitations of the study? What are the ethical implications of the limitations?
 - **Replication:** Can the results of the study be replicated by independent research? How can the researchers make sure that a study can be replicated by independent research?