

G632: The Mind and the Brain – Sample Assignment C

Unit Name: The Mind and the Brain	Unit Number: G632
Assignment Title: Report on Methods of Studying the Brain	Assignment: G632 Sample Assignment C
Date Set:	Due Date:
Assessment Objective(s): AO2(a) & AO2(b)	

Vocational Brief:

You are to write a report evaluating the different methods of studying the brain. The brain is an extremely complex organ. With some functions of the brain (e.g. memory and perception), animal experimentation can be used to reinforce findings from human subjects but in the main, much of the research on the human brain, stems from brain damaged patients or suspected brain malfunction. Your report must reflect upon this real life issue and your evaluation must include reference to studies and research and consider the ethical and moral implications.

You need to use appropriate terms in writing your report and to make reference to a number of distinctions.

The initial distinction is that of invasive and non-invasive techniques.

You need also to make reference to the settings (clinical or experimental) in which different techniques are used.

It may also be relevant to consider the methods in an historical context, e.g. lobotomy and cutting-edge techniques.

Stage 1:

- identify methods
- identify whether methods/techniques are invasive or non-invasive
- identify whether the methods/techniques have permanent or non-permanent effect
- detail the context in which the methods/techniques are generally used (diagnosis/identification of illness/malfunction or as a treatment)
- are they used in a clinical or experimental setting?
- use research as evidence to explain and expand upon your points
- for each method describe the ethical and moral implications of the research.

Stage 2:

Put the information together in the form of a report. The report needs to be concise (1500 words) and logical.

[Max marks possible for this task: 11] AO2(a) = 6 & AO2(b) = 5

Resources:

Information should be available from any advanced level general psychology, health and social care and health textbooks.

Many general health and BBC website addresses will also be useful sources of information.