

Subject: Biology

Title of essay: Does age have an effect on short-term memory of 6 to 18 year old students?

Criterion	Mark awarded (criterion)	<i>Comments should reference each individual assessment criterion. Please copy this form and include a copy per script – please type or write in the space below and continue on a separate sheet if necessary (maximum 50 words per criterion sample). Comments will be made available to examiners undertaking training.</i>	Total
A	2	The research question is clearly stated and is well focused.	2
B	1	There is some attempt to place the study in an academic context. The definitions on page 1 are referenced but no in-text references are provided for the relationship between age and memory on page 2. These ideas are not well substantiated and show a lack of understanding.	1
C	2	It is clear at the outset that this investigation would involve a more complex study than the candidate envisages. The rationale behind the planning of the investigation is not made clear. There are many unexplained assumptions and unclear ideas (see for example p4). The range of source sin the bibliography is very limited (out of seven sources used, three are encyclopedias and one is a standard biology text)	2
D	2	There is some knowledge and understanding but limited background reading is reflected in strongly subjective and poorly substantiated ideas.	2
E	2	There is some attempt to set out reasoned argument but the student is unclear about the variables being investigated and the data are not precise enough the address the research question. For example, it would have been a simple matter for example to avoid the need to equate age with grade level by recording the actual ages of the participants.	2

F	2	The analysis does not go beyond graphing the raw data. There is no real attempt to reveal trends and/or limitations of the data. The interpretation of the data is subjective (not looked at critically) and there are a number of inaccurate inferences on pages 8 and 9.	2
G	3	The language of the essay is reasonably easy to follow but there are several instances where technical terms are not accurately used or where the use of more precise terminology would have made the ideas clearer.	3
H	1	There are some relevant conclusions but these are set beside subjective ideas that are not well substantiated either by the sources accessed or by the candidate's own data.	1
I	3	There is a clear layout to the essay. The structure is well organized and technical aspects are dealt with competently.	3
J	1	The research question is clearly stated. The scope does not indicate how the investigation is to be conducted (what methods are to be used).	1
K	2	There is some evidence of independence and initiative in collecting a large body of data. The student clearly has a strong level of interest in the topic.	2
<p><i>Comments: Please add a short holistic summary (approximately 100 words) summing up the strengths and weaknesses of the essay. This essay involved considerable organization and initiative on the part of the candidate. Technically it is well constructed and is easy to follow. The argument is limited by a lack of background knowledge and some strongly subjective underlying ideas.</i></p>			Total 21