

Whatsapp : +919892507784 for psychology classes

E-mail : jyotika@excellingpsychology.com for other queries

Evaluate the study by Saavedra and Silverman, in terms of **two** strengths and **two** weaknesses. At least **one** of your evaluation points must be about the ethical guideline of confidentiality.

Ans.

A strength of the study by Saavedra and Silverman is the use of a case study as the research method. The study provides a thorough and detailed case study of a child with a phobia of buttons. This approach allowed for an in depth analysis of the phobia's onset, progression and response to treatment as it uses triangulation which means it uses self-reports, experiments and observations as methods of data collection to increase validity of findings.

Another strength of this study was use of a longitudinal design where there were follow-up sessions after 6 and 12 months. This accurately showed whether the symptoms of the phobia returned or the effects of therapy were long lasting. The boy was symptom-free on both occasions showing that exposure therapy works well with children's phobia and has long-lasting effects.

Commented [1]: The answer begins very well by specifying detail as a strength of the case study method and making this point relevant in the context of the case study of the boy.

However, mid-way a different strength altogether is given, that of triangulation, leaving the discussion of the first strength incomplete.

A better approach would have been to take triangulation as a separate strength in a different paragraph because it is just touched upon in this one, without any further elaboration.

Commented [2]: This point is well-written.

Though it also has scope for improvement in terms of one, specifying the therapy of which the effects were being observed and two, linking it back to the study by showing how this strength proved to increase the temporal validity of its treatment.

Whatsapp : +919892507784 for psychology classes

E-mail : jyotika@excellingpsychology.com for other queries

A weakness of the study is the breach of confidentiality as detailed descriptions of the classroom incident were published along with his age, ethnicity and where he lived. This may cause the child to be recognisable to people who work in the school, such as his teacher and also his classmates. Following this, if his identity was revealed it would cause psychological harm to him as people may make fun of him or repeatedly ask him questions about the phobia and the study.

Another weakness is the limited generalisability. As a case study focusing on a single child, the findings cannot be easily generalised to all children with phobias or other types of phobias. The unique characteristics of the child and the specific phobia of buttons may limit the applicability of the findings to other cases or to a broader population.

Commented [3]: This point is very well-written. I especially appreciate how breach of confidentiality has been linked to its consequence - that of potential harm caused to the boy from the possible ensuing ridicule he would have to face in society. This shows the student's thorough critical thinking which is what the 9990 syllabus aims to bring about!

A slight touch of improvement could be made by concluding the point with a link back to the study and specifying that this breach of confidentiality brings down the ethical soundness of the study.

Commented [4]: This point counts as generic. Mentioning 'unique characteristics' leaves the reader thinking, "Which unique characteristics?" "What makes this boy different from others with button phobia in the population?"

Contextualising it is simple - the boy has undergone a unique incident of buttons falling on him during art class, he had disgust and not fear of the buttons, etc.

Though in this answer there is only one such point that is generic, in most answers there are multiple such points if not all. These points are what bring down marks drastically on the 10-marker.

Generic points are those that can be written anywhere for any study or by any student, not showing any particular relevance to a given study and not giving proof of the student's unique critical thinking. Such points must be avoided at all costs.

Commented [5]: Overall, the answer is good. It is muddled at places and left uncontextualised at others. It is not a bad attempt at all. The student clearly has potential to discuss every strength and weakness completely, in a contextualised manner because she has done it for the most. Retaining mindfulness while writing the entire answer would help.

I have presented an exam-style evaluation of the answer below it, on the next page.

Whatsapp : +919892507784 for psychology classes
E-mail : jyotika@excellingpsychology.com for other queries

As per the table for scoring the 10-marker on paper 1, this answer falls in the 5-6 markband and would most likely score **6/10**

This can be understood as it meets the following criteria-

- Mostly appropriate evaluation but may not include the named issue;
 - Though this answer includes the named issue, it has ‘mostly appropriate’ evaluation. As noted for the issues discussed in paragraphs 1 and 4, those will not be considered as appropriately evaluated.
- Addresses either two strengths or two weaknesses in detail or one of each in detail or all four briefly;
 - The answer has addressed one strength and one weakness in detail. The other strength and weakness will be considered as having been addressed briefly.
- Selection of evidence is mostly effective;
 - Evidence is good where it has been used but it is not used in the last point as noted earlier and in a very limited i.e. less effective way for the first point.

Whatsapp : +919892507784 for psychology classes
E-mail : [jyotika@excellingpsychology.com](mailto: jyotika@excellingpsychology.com) for other queries

Lesson prepared by:

Jyotika Varmani (M.A. Psychology Honours, NET, SET, PGDHE)
CIE A-levels Psychology Teacher - Modern College, Mauritius
CIE A-levels Psychology Subject Expert - Podar International, Mumbai
8+ years experience in private tutoring for CIE, IB, AQA, Edexcel Psychology
Owner of 'Excelling Psychology' online
Visit Jyotika Varmani's complete profile at -
<https://www.teacheron.com/tutor-profile/1KH>

