

PSY 222 Research Methods
Price (v 3.0) Chapter 10: Single-Subject Research

Learn about each key term/concept so that you are able to:

- Recall** the definition and examples.
- Perform** it if it is a skill or procedure.
- Identify and evaluate the accuracy** of new examples.
Look for **relationships** between concepts.
- Distinguish** between similar concepts.
- Create new examples** of the concept, if applicable.

Study reminders

- Use spaced retrieval practice
- Study–wait–test all–repeat
- Avoid simple rereading and cramming
- Practice what you will do on the exam

Key terms. Define each term and give examples (additional terms not in the textbook)**

Social validity	Reversal design	Level
Single-subject research	ABA design	Trend
Group research	Baseline	Latency
Case study	Multiple-treatment reversal design	Percentage of nonoverlapping data
Experimental analysis of behavior	Alternating treatments design	** false alarm rate (of a statistical test)
Applied behavior analysis	Multiple-baseline design	** alpha level (of a statistical test)
Steady state strategy	Visual inspection	

Practice writing answers to these questions as you would for an exam (≈ 80-100 words). When possible, illustrate abstract concepts with concrete examples.

1. Explain what single-subject research is, including how it differs from other types of psychological research.
2. Explain what case studies are, including some of their strengths and weaknesses.
3. Describe the basic elements of a single-subject research design.
4. Explain how single-subject research designs address the issue of internal validity.
5. Interpret the results of simple, single-subject studies based on the visual inspection of graphed data.
6. Identify several situations in which single-subject research would be appropriate and several others in which group research would be appropriate.
7. For the typical "statistically significant" finding in a psychology study, the probability it is a false alarm is much higher than the alpha level. Explain why.

Other required material

Activity: Do the false alarm rate activity on the course website: burtthompson.net/false-alarm-rate.html
Use the button at the top of the activity page to download the activity handout.