

APA Format Research Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

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- 1. How should in-text citations be punctuated according to APA style?**
 - A. With a comma before the year.**
 - B. With brackets around the year.**
 - C. Without any punctuation marks.**
 - D. With the publication year in parentheses.**
- 2. How can you create a proper citation for a thesis or dissertation in APA style?**
 - A. Author, A. A. (Year). Title of thesis or dissertation (Publication No. xxx). Database Name**
 - B. Author, A. A. Title of dissertation. (Year). University**
 - C. Author, A. A. (Year). Dissertation title, retrieved from Database Name**
 - D. Author, A. A. (Year). Title of thesis or dissertation. Publisher**
- 3. How should online sources without a publication date be cited in APA format?**
 - A. Use "unknown date" in place of the date**
 - B. Use "n.a." in place of the date**
 - C. Use "n.d." in place of the date**
 - D. Use "no date available" instead of a date**
- 4. From the options below, which sentence correctly matches the noun and pronoun?**
 - A. The dogs who were adopted were very happy.**
 - B. The students that were hurt had to be rushed to the hospital.**
 - C. The cats that were rescued went to forever homes.**
 - D. The instructions who were delivered to the students did not make sense.**
- 5. What typeface is recommended for all text in APA format?**
 - A. Uniform, serif typeface.**
 - B. Uniform, sans-serif typeface.**
 - C. Any typeface as long as it is readable.**
 - D. Bold and italicized typeface.**

- 6. Which editing method is advised for highlighting key terms in a sentence?**
- A. Leave the sentence as is.**
 - B. Use quotation marks around key terms.**
 - C. Italicize the key terms.**
 - D. Bold the key terms.**
- 7. How should long quotes (40 words or more) be formatted in APA style?**
- A. Within quotation marks and in the body of text.**
 - B. Indented as a block quote without quotation marks.**
 - C. In italics and cited at the end.**
 - D. As a footnote on the page.**
- 8. What does the results section of an APA paper contain?**
- A. Discussion of the implications of the findings.**
 - B. A summary of the findings of the study, including statistics.**
 - C. Overview of the methods used in research.**
 - D. Research objectives and hypotheses.**
- 9. Which editing suggestion accurately addresses ethnic bias in the study of psychiatric disorders?**
- A. Leave as is.**
 - B. Similarly, in community-based studies of diagnosed psychiatric disorders, low-acculturated migrant Mexican farm-workers, when compared with native-born Mexican Americans and with non-Hispanic White Americans, exhibited the lowest rates of psychiatric disorder.**
 - C. Similarly, in community-based studies of diagnosed psychiatric disorders, high-acculturated migrant Mexican farm-workers, when compared with native-born Mexican Americans and with non-Hispanic White Americans, exhibited the lowest rates of psychiatric disorder.**
 - D. Similarly, in community-based studies of diagnosed psychiatric disorders, migrant Mexican workers, when compared with native-born Mexican Americans and with non-Hispanic White Americans, exhibited the lowest rates of psychiatric disorder.**

10. Identify the incorrect sentence according to APA style guidelines.

- A. The ages of the participants ranged between 2.0-3.5 years.**
- B. The ages of the participants ranged between 2.0 and 3.5 years.**
- C. The ages of the participants ranged between 2.5 and 3.5 yrs.**
- D. All of the above are incorrect.**

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Answers

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- 1. D**
- 2. A**
- 3. C**
- 4. C**
- 5. A**
- 6. A**
- 7. B**
- 8. B**
- 9. B**
- 10. A**

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Explanations

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1. How should in-text citations be punctuated according to APA style?

- A. With a comma before the year.
- B. With brackets around the year.
- C. Without any punctuation marks.
- D. With the publication year in parentheses.**

In APA style, in-text citations require that the publication year be enclosed in parentheses immediately following the author's name or at the end of the referenced information, depending on how the citation is structured. This format helps to clearly delineate the author's name from the date of the publication, ensuring clarity in the citation process. For instance, if you're directly quoting or paraphrasing an idea from a source, you would write the author's last name followed by the year in parentheses, like this: Smith (2020) or (Smith, 2020). This formatting provides readers with essential information about the source's credibility and allows them to locate the complete reference in the reference list easily. This systematic use of parentheses aligns with the overall guidelines of APA style, which emphasizes accuracy and consistency in referencing sources.

2. How can you create a proper citation for a thesis or dissertation in APA style?

- A. Author, A. A. (Year). Title of thesis or dissertation (Publication No. xxx). Database Name**
- B. Author, A. A. Title of dissertation. (Year). University
- C. Author, A. A. (Year). Dissertation title, retrieved from Database Name
- D. Author, A. A. (Year). Title of thesis or dissertation. Publisher

Option A is the correct way to create a citation for a thesis or dissertation in APA style because it follows the specific structure outlined by the APA guidelines. The format includes the author's last name and initials, the year of publication in parentheses, the title of the thesis or dissertation in italics, and a publication number if applicable. Additionally, it specifies the database name where the thesis or dissertation can be found, which is crucial for retrieval. This citation format provides all necessary elements to help readers locate the original work. The other options do not align with the required APA format. For instance, option B lacks the necessary publication details, such as the database name, and does not include the publication number, which is often an essential part of citing theses or dissertations. Option C, while close, improperly uses "retrieved from" and does not italicize the title, which is critical in APA citations. Option D incorrectly includes "Publisher," as theses and dissertations typically do not have a traditional publisher. Each of these deficiencies highlights why option A stands out as the most accurate representation of APA style for citing theses or dissertations.

3. How should online sources without a publication date be cited in APA format?

- A. Use "unknown date" in place of the date
- B. Use "n.a." in place of the date
- C. Use "n.d." in place of the date**
- D. Use "no date available" instead of a date

In APA format, when citing online sources that do not have a publication date, the correct approach is to use "n.d.," which stands for "no date." This abbreviation is a standard notation in APA guidelines to indicate that no publication date is available for the source. Using "n.d." informs readers that while the source lacks a date, it is still being acknowledged and cited appropriately, allowing for the continuation of good scholarly practice. This method ensures consistency in citations, making it easier for readers to understand that the absence of a date does not diminish the source's relevance or credibility in the context of the research. Moreover, it adheres to the APA Style guidelines, which emphasize clarity and professionalism in academic writing.

4. From the options below, which sentence correctly matches the noun and pronoun?

- A. The dogs who were adopted were very happy.
- B. The students that were hurt had to be rushed to the hospital.
- C. The cats that were rescued went to forever homes.**
- D. The instructions who were delivered to the students did not make sense.

The sentence "The cats that were rescued went to forever homes" correctly matches the noun "cats" with the pronoun "that." In this context, "that" is appropriately used to refer to a specific group of animals—the cats. This use of "that" in relation to a non-human subject is grammatically sound and fits well within the structure of the sentence. Additionally, this sentence effectively conveys a clear and concise message about the cats being rescued, which is the primary subject. The phrasing maintains cohesion and clarity, aligning with proper grammatical conventions in both writing and speech.

5. What typeface is recommended for all text in APA format?

- A. Uniform, serif typeface.**
- B. Uniform, sans-serif typeface.
- C. Any typeface as long as it is readable.
- D. Bold and italicized typeface.

The recommended typeface for all text in APA format is a uniform, serif typeface. In APA style, Times New Roman in 12-point size is a standard choice. Serif typefaces, which have small decorative features at the ends of their letters, are believed to enhance readability in printed documents, making them preferable for academic writing. This choice fosters a formal appearance that aligns with the scholarly tone expected in research papers. While other typefaces might be readable, using a specific uniform typeface helps ensure consistency across documents, enhancing the professionalism of the presentation. Thus, the emphasis on a serif typeface underscores APA's commitment to clarity and standardization in scholarly communication.

6. Which editing method is advised for highlighting key terms in a sentence?

- A. Leave the sentence as is.**
- B. Use quotation marks around key terms.
- C. Italicize the key terms.
- D. Bold the key terms.

The most appropriate method for highlighting key terms in a sentence, according to APA style guidance, is to italicize the key terms. Italicizing serves to emphasize important phrases or concepts without detracting from the flow of the text or confusing the reader—something that using quotation marks or bold text might do. Quotation marks are largely reserved for direct quotations, and bold text can often be seen as disruptive in academic writing. Therefore, italicizing is the recommended approach as it adds emphasis while adhering to established formatting conventions in scholarly work.

7. How should long quotes (40 words or more) be formatted in APA style?

- A. Within quotation marks and in the body of text.
- B. Indented as a block quote without quotation marks.**
- C. In italics and cited at the end.
- D. As a footnote on the page.

Long quotes, which are defined as those containing 40 words or more in APA style, should be formatted as block quotes. This formatting involves indenting the entire quote from the left margin and omitting quotation marks. Block quotes are presented on a new line and must be double-spaced, following the same font and font size as the rest of the document. This format helps to visually distinguish lengthy quotations from the surrounding text, making it clear to the reader that this section is a direct citation from a source. It is also essential to provide an appropriate citation after the quote, including the author's last name, the year of publication, and the page number, formatted according to APA style guidelines. By indenting the text and avoiding quotation marks, the emphasis remains on the quoted material itself rather than on the quotation as a spoken or written assertion, which aligns with the preferences of academic writing in the social sciences.

8. What does the results section of an APA paper contain?

- A. Discussion of the implications of the findings.
- B. A summary of the findings of the study, including statistics.**
- C. Overview of the methods used in research.
- D. Research objectives and hypotheses.

The results section of an APA paper is specifically designed to present the findings of the research in a clear and precise manner. This section typically includes a summary of the data collected during the study, focusing on the statistical analyses performed and the outcomes of those analyses. It is important that this section remains objective and factual, providing the reader with essential information such as means, standard deviations, and any relevant statistical tests, along with their results. This structure allows readers to understand what was discovered during the research without the influence of interpretation or contextual analysis, which are reserved for the discussion section. By emphasizing the results, this section serves to inform the reader of the direct outputs of the research methodology applied. Thus, it is accurate to say that the results section includes a summary of the findings of the study, along with statistical data.

9. Which editing suggestion accurately addresses ethnic bias in the study of psychiatric disorders?

- A. Leave as is.
- B. Similarly, in community-based studies of diagnosed psychiatric disorders, low-acculturated migrant Mexican farm-workers, when compared with native-born Mexican Americans and with non-Hispanic White Americans, exhibited the lowest rates of psychiatric disorder.**
- C. Similarly, in community-based studies of diagnosed psychiatric disorders, high-acculturated migrant Mexican farm-workers, when compared with native-born Mexican Americans and with non-Hispanic White Americans, exhibited the lowest rates of psychiatric disorder.
- D. Similarly, in community-based studies of diagnosed psychiatric disorders, migrant Mexican workers, when compared with native-born Mexican Americans and with non-Hispanic White Americans, exhibited the lowest rates of psychiatric disorder.

The chosen answer addresses ethnic bias in the study of psychiatric disorders by specifying the acculturation levels of migrant Mexican farm-workers, which adds nuance to the comparison between different ethnic groups. By distinguishing between low-acculturated and high-acculturated individuals, the statement acknowledges the importance of cultural and acculturation factors in psychiatric health outcomes. This differentiation is critical for a fair and accurate analysis as it recognizes that not all individuals within an ethnic group experience mental health issues in the same way, influenced by their level of integration into the larger culture. In contrast, options that do not specify the acculturation level may present a more homogenized view of ethnic groups. Without this detail, there is a risk of implying that all individuals from a specific ethnic background share the same experiences or health outcomes, which can perpetuate stereotypes and overlook the diversity within groups. Therefore, specifying the acculturation aspect in the comparison helps to mitigate bias by highlighting that mental health outcomes can vary significantly due to different cultural contexts, making the research more culturally sensitive and accurate.

10. Identify the incorrect sentence according to APA style guidelines.

A. The ages of the participants ranged between 2.0-3.5 years.

B. The ages of the participants ranged between 2.0 and 3.5 years.

C. The ages of the participants ranged between 2.5 and 3.5 yrs.

D. All of the above are incorrect.

The identified sentence is not aligned with APA style guidelines primarily because it uses a hyphen to indicate a range, which is not the correct punctuation for this purpose. In APA style, when specifying a range, the correct format is to use the word "and" instead of a hyphen to clearly convey the continuity between the two values. This ensures clarity and precision in communication. To illustrate, when presenting age ranges, one should state the range using "between" followed by the two values connected by "and," like in the correct answer option. This usage not only follows the grammatical conventions of standard English but also adheres to the APA style's emphasis on clarity and avoiding ambiguity in research writing. Therefore, the correct usage in APA style would be to communicate that participants' ages range from 2.0 and 3.5 years, ensuring readers understand the intended intervals without confusion.