Before the Study

Ethical research with people and animals

P.1.5 "Describe the key concepts of the ethical guidelines as applied by the American Psychological Association regarding the use of human and non-human animal subjects. Explain the role of institutional review boards."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two protections for human participants, circle two protections for animals, and number two actions an IRB can take.

Who Checks the Research Plan?

1. At a university, a psychologist wants to study how noise affects memory. Adult volunteers would complete a word task while hearing traffic sounds. Before recruitment, an institutional review board, or IRB, examines the plan for risks, benefits, fair selection of participants, and safeguards. The IRB can require changes or reject a study. Its approval does not replace a researcher's duty to act ethically. The board also monitors approved research and reviews reported problems.

2. For human participants, American Psychological Association (APA) ethics call for informed, voluntary consent. People learn what participation involves and may decline or leave without penalty. Researchers protect private information and limit foreseeable harm. Deception is allowed only under strict conditions, including a strong scientific reason and no effective nondeceptive option. Researchers must explain the deception afterward as soon as possible. An IRB reviews these safeguards before a study begins, but the researcher must follow them throughout.

3. A second psychologist plans to observe how mice explore unfamiliar spaces. APA guidelines require a clear scientific reason to use animals, suitable housing and care, trained handlers, and efforts to reduce pain and distress. Researchers must consider alternatives to animal use and use the fewest animals consistent with valid results. An institutional animal care and use committee, or IACUC, reviews animal research at U.S. institutions covered by federal rules. An IRB reviews research with people, not animals.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. An adult in a study of workplace conflict wants to leave halfway through. How should the researcher respond, and which ethical principle applies?

2. A researcher plans to record people discussing family finances. What two safeguards should an IRB examine before the study begins?

3. A lab proposes a painful test on rabbits even though it could answer the question without animals. Why is this plan a problem, and which committee reviews it?

4. A study with IRB approval causes unexpected distress. What should happen next, and why is approval not enough?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A team wants to test whether dim lighting changes sleep. In five sentences, propose one study with adult volunteers and one with hamsters, name one safeguard for each, and explain which committee reviews each plan and what it should check.

Before the Study

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two protections for human participants, circle two protections for animals, and number two actions an IRB can take. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	An adult in a study of workplace conflict wants to leave halfway through. How should the researcher respond, and which ethical principle applies?	**Let the person leave without penalty. Participation must be voluntary.**
2	A researcher plans to record people discussing family finances. What two safeguards should an IRB examine before the study begins?	**The IRB should examine how participants will give informed consent and how their private information will be protected.**
3	A lab proposes a painful test on rabbits even though it could answer the question without animals. Why is this plan a problem, and which committee reviews it?	**Researchers must consider alternatives and reduce animal pain and distress. An IACUC reviews the plan.**
4	A study with IRB approval causes unexpected distress. What should happen next, and why is approval not enough?	**The researcher must address the harm and report the problem for IRB review. Ethical duties and IRB monitoring continue after approval.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Adult volunteers could track their sleep after spending evenings in dim light. They should give informed consent and be free to leave the study without penalty. An IRB should review risks and consent procedures before the team recruits them. In a separate study, hamsters could spend evenings under dim light while researchers record their sleep. An IACUC should check whether animals are necessary and whether the plan provides proper care and limits distress.

Accept equivalent safeguards supported by the passage. For the open task, look for a distinct plan for each group and the correct review committee for each plan.