



Beauchamp College

Year 11/12 - A- Level Transition Work

PSYCHOLOGY

PSYCHOLOGY TRANSITION EXERCISE

Y11-Y12

A psychologist was interested in testing a new treatment for people with eating disorders. She put up adverts in several clinics to recruit participants. Thirty people came forward and were given a structured interview by a trained therapist. The therapist then calculated a score for each participant as a measure of their 'current functioning', where 50 indicated excellent functioning and 0 indicated a failure to function adequately. The psychologist then randomly allocated participants to either a treatment or no-treatment group. After eight weeks, each participant was then re-assessed using a structured interview conducted by the same trained therapist, and given a new score for 'current functioning'.

For each participant, the psychologist calculated an improvement score by subtracting the initial score from the score after eight weeks. The greater the number the greater the improvement.

TABLE 1: median and range of improvement scores for the treatment and non-treatment groups

	Treatment group	Non-treatment group
Median	10.9	2.7
Range	2.1	0.8

1: With reference to the data in table 1, outline what the findings of this investigation seem to show us about the effectiveness of the treatment.

3: The researcher used a volunteer sample. Outline one strength and one limitation of using a volunteer sample.

The therapist was interested in seeing whether their assessment of improvement correlated with that of the patients themselves. 10 participants agreed to take part in a follow up study in which they were shown how the judgement was made and asked to rate their own improvement.

TABLE 3: Ratings of patient's improvements made by therapists and patients.

Patient	Therapist rating	Patient rating
1	10	10
2	2	9
3	9	3
4	6	6
5	3	9
6	10	2
7	2	1
8	1	8
9	8	4
10	4	7

4: Draw an appropriate graph to illustrate the relationship between the therapists rating and the patient's ratings of improvement.

