

320 Task D Guide

Understanding the Success of Animal Training Programmes

What is this task about?

In this task, you will review the success of the training programme you completed in **Task C**. You will identify any changes that could improve the programme, implement those modifications and evaluate whether they improved the results.

You will also deliver a short presentation (maximum **10 minutes**) explaining your findings.

Remember: Any modifications to your training programme must be approved by your tutor before you carry them out.

What do I need to do?

There are **four stages** to this task.

Stage 1 - Review Your Original Training Programme

Look back at the programme you created in Task C.

Think about questions such as:

- Did you achieve your training goal?
- What worked well?
- What challenges did you experience?
- Did the animal respond well?
- Were your rewards motivating?
- Was the equipment suitable?
- Was the environment appropriate?
- Were your sessions the right length?

Be honest when reviewing your work.

Stage 2 - Decide What Needs Changing

Based on your review, identify any improvements you could make.

Examples include:

- Using higher-value rewards.
- Shortening training sessions.
- Training in a quieter environment.
- Changing the equipment.
- Breaking the behaviour into smaller steps.
- Increasing the number of training sessions.
- Improving your timing when rewarding the animal.

Explain **why** each modification is needed.

Stage 3 - Implement Your Modifications

Carry out your improved training programme.

Remember to collect evidence.

Examples include:

- Photographs
- Video clips
- Observation sheets
- Training diary
- Session records

Show that the modifications were actually used during training.

Stage 4 - Evaluate the Modifications

Once the modified programme has been completed, evaluate its success. Ask yourself:

- Did the changes improve the training?
- Did the animal learn more quickly?
- Was the animal more motivated?
- Were the rewards more effective?
- Was the equipment more suitable?
- Would you keep these changes in future?

Support your answers with evidence.

Your Presentation

Your presentation should last **no longer than 10 minutes**.

Include:

1. Summary of the original training programme

Explain:

- The animal
- The training goal
- The learning theory used
- The equipment used

2. Was the programme successful?

Explain:

- Whether the goal was achieved.
- How successful the programme was.
- Evidence of progress.

3. Why was it successful (or unsuccessful)?

Discuss:

- Rewards
- Equipment
- Environment
- Timing
- Animal motivation
- Consistency

4. Modifications made

Explain:

- What you changed.
- Why you changed it.
- How the changes were included in the programme.

5. Evidence

Include:

- Photographs
- Videos
- Observation sheets
- Training records

6. Evaluation

Explain:

- Did the modifications improve the outcome?
- Which changes worked best?
- What would you do differently next time?

Presentation Checklist

Have you included:

- ☐ Summary of the original programme
- ☐ Whether the programme was successful
- ☐ Reasons for success or failure
- ☐ Modifications made
- ☐ Why the modifications were chosen
- ☐ Evidence of the modified programme
- ☐ Evaluation of the modifications

How to Achieve a Pass

You should:

- Present a brief summary of the training programme.
- Briefly analyse whether it was successful.
- Suggest a suitable modification.
- Show evidence that the modification was implemented.
- Briefly evaluate the modified programme.

How to Achieve a Merit

To achieve Merit you should also:

- Produce an accurate summary of the training programme.
- Analyse the success of the programme with clear justification.
- Propose well-justified modifications that are appropriate for the training situation.
- Explain clearly how the modifications fit into the programme.
- Show good understanding of different training methods, equipment, rewards or environments.
- Evaluate the programme after the modifications were implemented.

How to Achieve a Distinction

To achieve Distinction you should also:

- Produce a concise and accurate summary of the training programme.
- Fully analyse and critically evaluate its success.
- Provide detailed justification for every modification.
- Clearly explain how each modification improved the programme.
- Demonstrate an excellent understanding of training methods, equipment, rewards and the training environment.
- Critically evaluate the modified programme using evidence to explain how the changes affected the final outcome.

Top Tips

- Be honest about what didn't work. Evaluating challenges shows good understanding.
- Always explain **why** you made each modification.
- Support your evaluation with photographs, videos or training records.
- Link every modification back to your original review.
- Focus on improving animal welfare as well as training success.
- During your presentation, speak clearly and use your evidence to support your points.
- Remember that thoughtful evaluation is just as important as achieving the training goal.