

# Scheme of Learning: Research methods

## Topic Sequence:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>Variables</b>	<b>Experiments</b>	<b>Sampling</b>	<b>Design</b>	<b>Interviews, questionnaires,</b>	<b>observations and case studies</b>	<b>Reliability and validity</b>	<b>Ethical issues</b>	<b>Data</b>

## Topic Overview:

This unit focuses on how good research is conducted. At all stages we focus on the strengths and weakness of each method chosen. This topic is a constant thread through all of the content so for most student this is a chance to collate all the techniques used in psychological research together. All techniques are taught with reference to relevant studies.

## Lesson Sequence:

This topic starts with the basics by discussing independent, dependent and extraneous variables which we then use to construct both an alternative and null hypothesis.

Next we move onto the types of psychological research by focusing on Laboratory studies, Field studies and Natural studies, all the while focusing on the strengths and weaknesses of each method.

Sampling follows, with a focus on creating a sample of individuals that are representative. Students will create samples using the 4 main types of sampling; opportunity, Random, systematic and stratified. Again, strengths and weaknesses are key as each method has its uses in particular circumstances.

After sampling we move onto the actual design of the experiment. This is about what the participant will experience during you experiment.

This leads or nicely onto the topic of standardised procedures and standardised instructions which make sure that results are repeatable.

We next move onto methods of gathering data. Interviews, questionnaires, observations and case studies are all visited in turn. Again famous and relevant studies are used as examples so that each subtopic is linked back to the studies we have analysed and links to future studies are made.

Ethical issues are key in psychological research and so time is dedicated to looking at the cores issues in ethics and the guidelines of the British Psychological Society.

Finally we move onto data processing and analysis in the for of frequency tables, graphs, histograms and descriptive statistics.

## Sequence of Lessons:

<b>1</b>	Intro lesson – Knowledge map and glossary
<b>2</b>	Hypothesis and variables
<b>3</b>	Extraneous variables
<b>4</b>	Experiments
<b>5</b>	Sampling methods
<b>6</b>	Designing research
<b>7</b>	Interviews and questionnaires
<b>8</b>	Case studies
<b>9</b>	Observation studies
<b>10</b>	Correlations
<b>11</b>	Research procedures
<b>12</b>	Reliability and validity
<b>13</b>	Ethical issues
<b>14</b>	Data
<b>15</b>	Descriptive statistics

## Topic Resources:

<b>Knowledge Map:</b>	Research methods	<b>Any other Resources:</b>	Glossary
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## Assessment:

<b>Knowledge:</b>	Mid topic 20Marks End of topic 20Marks Assessment - 11marks
<b>Application of Knowledge:</b>	Longer written apply questions as part of end of topic assessment - 28marks