

# A Level Psychology

## SUMMER PREPARATION WORK

### Introduction to key terms and concepts



# Psychology

**YOU NEED TO PRINT AND COMPLETE THIS BOOKLET.**

There are a number of key terms and concepts to be learnt in order to help you understand the content of the modules, as soon as possible. Your teachers will take you through these key terms and concepts throughout the course but you need to be familiar with them prior to starting in September. Inside the booklet you will find some activities and some spaces for note taking. You will need to complete the activities/notes in this booklet before your understanding is assessed through the first of your key assessments. Your understanding of the content of this booklet will be assessed via a multiple choice test during the second week of the course. You need to complete this booklet using the relevant information found on [www.holah.karoo.net](http://www.holah.karoo.net) You will find a lot of the information you need in the **investigations** and **themes** sections.

**SAMPLING** (See the self-report section on Investigations)



Match the key terms to their definitions

Sample	The whole group of people whom the researcher is interested in.
Random sample	The group of people that are selected to take part in the research.
Stratified sample	The method used to select the sample e.g. opportunity, random, self-selected.
Self-selected sample	A sample selected so that it accurately reflects the target population.
Sampling method	The extent to which the findings of a particular study can be applied to the target population.
Representative sample	Every member of the target population has an equal chance of being selected to be in the sample e.g. all names are put in a hat and the required sample is drawn from it.
Systematic sample	This is where people volunteer to take part in a piece of research by responding to some form of advert.
Generalisability	The researcher simply uses the people that are present at the time at which the research is being conducted.
Androcentric	Where groups of participants are selected in proportion to their frequency in the target population in order to obtain a representative sample.
Opportunity sample	This is where a researcher selects every $n^{\text{th}}$ person from a list of the target population.
Target population	Where research is dominated by/centred on males e.g. male sampling bias.
Snowball sample	ask a participant who fits your target population to tell their friends about the study and ask them to get in touch with the researcher and so on.

Which sampling method has been used in the following examples?

- 1) A student selected his sample by going to the sixth-form common room and asking the first 20 people he saw to complete a questionnaire.
- 2) A researcher put the names of everyone in a school in a hat and drew out 50 names.
- 3) A researcher advertises for participants in a newspaper.

## **ETHICS** (See ethics in the themes section)

An ethical issue is a conflict between what the researcher wants and the rights of participants - it is a conflict about what is acceptable.

Ethics are a set of guidelines which psychologists carrying out research should follow.

The following list includes a summary of the ethical criteria proposed by the British Psychological Society for the conduct of research. The British Psychological Society issued revised ethical principles in June 1990. In the conduct of their research, psychologists should always consider the following:

<b>Ethical issue</b>	<b>Definition/explanation</b>
Consent	
Confidentiality	
Deception	
Debriefing	
Protection of participants	
Observational research	
Withdrawal	

In one study, psychologists investigated invasion of personal space by conducting a field experiment in a urinal. There were three conditions: a confederate stood either immediately next to a participant or one urinal away, or was absent. The experimenter recorded micturation times (how long they took to pee) as an indication of how comfortable the participant felt. Is it ETHICAL to observe people in such a place?

Refer to the ethical issues you have been taught and for each one, highlight whether they are issues in the above example, if so, explain why.



## SELF-REPORTS (See self-reports in the investigations section)

Definition	Advantage	Disadvantage
Open question...		
Closed question...		
Qualitative data...		
Quantitative data...		
Questionnaire...		
Structured interview...		
Unstructured interview...		

Demand characteristic refers to...

Social desirability refers to...



## VARIABLES AND HYPOTHESES (See experiments in investigations section)

A \_\_\_\_\_ is anything of relevance in a study that can vary or change. There are a number of different variables. The variable which is directly manipulated by an experimenter in order to test its effect on another variable is known as the \_\_\_\_\_ variable. The \_\_\_\_\_ variable is the component that is measured to see the possible effect of the IV.

A \_\_\_\_\_ is a testable statement which establishes what you think the relationship between two variables is. For an experiment, the \_\_\_\_\_ would state how one variable (the \_\_\_\_\_ variable) is likely to affect another variable (the \_\_\_\_\_ variable).

Hypotheses can be either one-tailed or two tailed. In a \_\_\_\_\_-tailed hypothesis a specific effect is predicted. This is also known as a \_\_\_\_\_ hypothesis and has only one possible true outcome. In a \_\_\_\_\_-tailed hypothesis an effect is predicted but not specified. This is also known as a \_\_\_\_\_ hypothesis and has two possible outcomes.

The \_\_\_\_\_ hypothesis tells us that the \_\_\_\_\_ will not have the predicted effect on the \_\_\_\_\_. The null hypothesis always states that there will be \_\_\_\_\_ difference between conditions, regardless of whether the alternate hypothesis is one or two-tailed.

No	alternate/experimental	hypothesis	directional	IV	one
Non-directional	two	dependent	independent	null	DV
	Independent	variable	dependent		

For each of the following hypotheses, identify the IV and DV and decide whether it is alternate or null:

- 1) There will be no difference in the time taken to complete a jigsaw in the morning and in the evening.
- 2) People will complete a jigsaw faster after drinking coffee than after drinking a non-caffeinated drink.
- 3) There will be a negative relationship between age and ability to solve anagrams.
- 4) Eating breakfast improves performance on a reaction-time task.
- 5) Age will not affect performance on a mathematics test.

## EXPERIMENTS (See experiments in the investigations section)

Definition	Advantage	Disadvantage
Lab experiment...		
Field experiment...		
Quasi experiment...		
Independent measures design...		
Repeated measures design...		
Matched pairs design...		

Try to identify the strengths and weaknesses of using an independent measures design to investigate the effect of the amount of light on the amount of work completed by students.



## CORRELATIONS (See correlations in the investigations section)

A researcher has conducted a correlational study to investigate the relationship between how important a person thinks appearance is and how much they spend on clothes each month.

The results are in the table below:

Participants (initials)	Self-rating of importance of appearance	Amount spent on clothes each month
HA	6	£80
EP	8	£120
SF	9	£100
PR	3	£110
MS	7	£75
JP	4	£35
AG	3	£15
BF	5	£50

Sketch an appropriately labelled scattergraph displaying the results of this study.

Negative correlation refers to...	
Positive correlation refers to....	
Advantages of correlations	
Disadvantages of correlations	

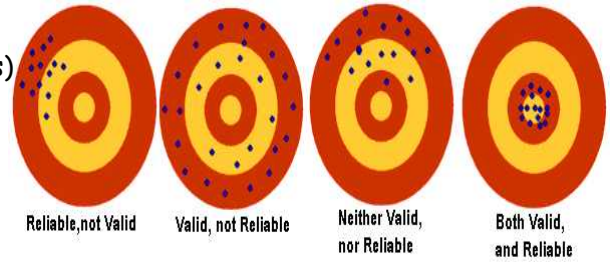


## ALTERNATIVE RESEARCH METHODS (See the investigations/themes sections)

Definition	Advantages	Disadvantages
Case study...		
Participant observation...		
Non-participant observation...		
Covert observation...		
Overt observation...		

# DEBATES, THEMES AND ISSUES (See themes)

Reliability refers to...



Inter-rater reliability refers to...

Validity refers to...

Ethnocentrism refers to...

Explain what is meant by the nature/nurture debate

Explain what is meant by the reductionism/holism debate

Explain what is meant by the individual/situational debate

Explain what is meant by the determinism/freewill debate

