**Prep for lesson 3**

1. Remind yourself of what extraneous, controlled and confounding variables mean from Prep for lesson 2
2. Define these terms so that you can understand the next task, use the research methods pack or go online to help. To aid your understanding, find examples in psychological experiments to illustrate the term. Four out of the ten boxes have been completed as examples for how to fill in the other 6.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Term | Definition | Examples |
| Ecological validity |  | Ex: Hofling (1966) obedience study  Hofling’s study took place in a hospital with real nurses, so the situation appeared real to the participants, and they acted naturally. |
| Demand characteristics | Refers to features in a study that cause participants to form an interpretation of the purpose of the research. This causes a change, often unconscious, in participants’ behaviour in order to fit that interpretation. The experimental situation, accidental communication from the experimenter, and knowledge of the experiment are examples. | Ex: Asch (1953) conformity study |
| Random allocation of participants to conditions |  | Ex: Rutter (1998) Romanian orphans |
| Internal validity | If an experiment does not have control other variables, these may influence the results. In other words, a lack of control may mean that changes in the DV are not necessarily due to the manipulation of the IV. Such experiments are criticised for ‘lacking internal validity’ | Bowlby (1944) 44 thieves study |
| Establishing cause and effect |  | Ex: Zimbardo (1973) prison experiment  The researchers claimed that the situation caused people to act aggressively when they were placed in a position of authority, however, Some guards were far more aggressive than others, which means aggression maybe due to personal characteristics, not the situation |

1. Using the research methods pack, or online, complete the task below. Some examples are given to help you

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Laboratory | Field | Natural | Quasi |
| Definition | Experiment takes place in controlled conditions  The IV is manipulated by the experimenter  There is random allocations of participants to conditions/order of conditions |  |  |  |
| Advantages |  | Because the study takes place in the participants own environment, the study can be said to have greater ecological validity  Lower risk of demand characteristics |  |  |
| Disadvantages |  |  | Participants are not randomly allocated to conditions so participant variables could become a confounding variable  Lack of control means questionable internal validity. Therefore it is difficult to establish cause and effect |  |

**TASK:** Write a paragraph (no more than 150 words) about which one you think should be used if we need to have **high internal validity** in research, and which one you think we should use if we require **high ecological validity** in research. Importantly, justify your reasons.

1. When we do a study, we have a moral obligation to protect our participants. There are five main ethical issues that we must consider, as defined by the British Psychological Society (BPS). Answer the questions and complete the table below using the research methods pack

1. What does BPS stand for?

2. What is the BPS code of ethics and why is it used?

3. What is an ethical issue?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Ethical Issue | Describe in your own words | How do psychologist deal with this issue |
| **D**eception |  |  |
| **R**ight to withdraw |  |  |
| **I**nformed consent |  |  |
| **P**rotection from harm |  |  |
| **P**rivacy |  |  |

**NB: Remember the acronym ‘DRIPP’ to recall the issues**

1. **Now you have detailed notes, but have you learned the material? Read through your notes once, then try to answer these 10 questions without referring to back to them.**
2. If a research study, such as a laboratory experiment, is controlled to such an extent, that the results cannot be generalised to other situations, what type of validity is reduced?
3. If there are features of a study that result in participants becoming aware of the aims and/or hypothesis, their behaviour may change in light of this information. a) What is the term used to describe such features? b) give an example of such features
4. What is the purpose of randomly allocating participants to conditions?
5. When there are extraneous variables, they may confound (confuse) the results. When we have such confounding variables, which type of validity is reduced?
6. If we have a high level of validity, we can be reasonably certain that it is the independent variable is causing changes in the dependent variable. In your own words, what does this mean?
7. What are the five main ethical issues (DRIPP)?
8. If researchers cannot get full consent from the participants, what measures can they take to make the study abide by the BPS code of ethics?
9. Privacy and confidentiality is one of the ethical issues surrounding research. What can psychologists do to ensure participants privacy and confidentiality?
10. a) What are the differences between a laboratory and field experiment? b) What are the differences between field and natural experiments?
11. a) Give an advantage for each type of experiment. b) give a disadvantage for each type of experiment.