**Prep for lesson 5**

1. Revision. Make good notes on sampling from the year 1 research methods information pack on random, stratified, systematic, volunteer, opportunity. Include details **on how it is** conducted and the **advantages and disadvantages** of each.

b) Briefly design 5 studies that use each one of the five sample techniques. We’ve done the first for you.

1) A study on college students selected participants from the register. Each name was assigned a number, and a computer programme was used to randomly select 20 numbers. These corresponded to the students names.

2)

3)

4)

5)

c) Read this text and learn it in preparation for the next lesson

Reliability is the concept that in research, if a psychologist was to repeat a study in the same or very similar conditions, they would get very similar results. Here is an analogy. If an aeroplane had just been built, would you be happy if it had had just one test flight? The likelihood is that you would want it to have been tested many times before you get on it. Similarly, if a new medicine is developed, you may wish to know that there has been some testing so that the side effects are known before you take it (thank goodness for those volunteers who test medicines for us, and the animals who get tested before them!).

In psychology, we want to know whether a finding we have is a one off, or whether we would get the same results if we repeated it. It is for this reason that we need to make our studies replicable. This is really easy with laboratory experiments, as the conditions, procedures and materials are standardised. It is more difficult when we are out in the field, or conducting case studies and other non-experimental investigations, because the conditions may be variable, so replication cannot occur and reliability be tested for.

Also, if we have more than one researcher, we want to establish inter-rater reliability. That means we need to establish if they are recording the participants behaviour is exactly the same way. Easy with exact measuring mechanisms, such as time, heart rate, body temperature, etc., but not so easy when interpretation of behaviour is required, for example when trying to measure aggression, shyness, happiness etc.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KKCUoir5690> (for more information about reliability and validity)

d) Write three key bullet points about reliability in psychology

**Experimental designs**

1. Go online and/or use the research methods information pack from <http://www.psych205.com/uploads/2/6/3/0/26304200/1819_research_methods_yr_1.pdf>

Complete the following table about how we use our participants once we have selected our sample

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Independent groups design | Repeated measures design | Matched-pairs design |
| Definition |  |  |  |
| What is meant by… | Random allocation to conditions | Counter-balancing |  |
| Advantages |  |  |  |
| Disadvantages |  |  |  |

The end