8.10 Applying Issues and Debates to Memory and Eyewitness Testimony Research: 10-minute Pack

AQA 7182 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 A study on leading questions used only young adult university students as witnesses. State one problem this sample choice creates for generalising findings about eyewitness testimony to the wider population.

(Total for Question 1 is 3 marks)

2 A lab study into post-event discussion used only same-gender pairs of participants and found higher contamination when partners were friends. State one methodological limitation of using friends as pairs and suggest one practical way to control for this limitation in future experiments.

(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 8.10 Applying Issues and Debates to Memory and Eyewitness Testimony Research: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

identifies a generalisation issue, e.g. the sample is not representative of all ages or education levels oe	**M1**
explains why this matters, e.g. memory accuracy and susceptibility to suggestion may vary with age or experience, so results may not apply to older adults or children oe	**A1**
applies to eyewitness context, e.g. legal cases involve diverse witnesses so the study's conclusions may be limited when used in court recommendations oe	**A1**

Answer: Using only young university students limits generalisability because memory and suggestibility can vary with age and experience, so findings may not apply to older adults or children who are often eyewitnesses.

Question 2

identifies limitation, e.g. friends may be more likely to influence each other due to trust and conversational dynamics, reducing generalisability to stranger witness interactions oe	**M1**
explains why this matters, e.g. the level of contamination may be exaggerated compared with typical eyewitness interactions between strangers oe	**A1**
suggests a control, e.g. use random pairing of unfamiliar participants or include both friend and stranger conditions with counterbalancing oe	**M1**
explains how this improves validity, e.g. allows comparison and separates friendship effects from the basic mechanism of post-event discussion oe	**A1**

Answer: Limitation: friends are more likely to influence each other, exaggerating contamination compared with stranger witnesses. Control: use random pairing of unfamiliar participants or include both friend and stranger conditions with counterbalancing to isolate friendship effects and improve generalisability.

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