7.6 How to Write a Hypothesis: 10-minute Pack

AQA 7182 · Calculator allowed · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer every question in the spaces provided. Write in full sentences where a question asks you to explain, justify or discuss. Where a question asks you to write a hypothesis, write a single complete sentence. The marks available are shown in brackets after each question. This is a full question bank rather than a single sitting: work through it in sections, or use one of the timed cuts.

1 A social psychologist investigates conformity using a line judgement task. Participants give their answer either out loud in front of five confederates who have all given the same wrong answer, or privately by writing the answer on a card. The psychologist records how many of the eighteen critical trials each participant answers incorrectly. Identify the independent variable and the dependent variable in this study.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 A student is revising the features of a scientific hypothesis before an examination on research methods. Which one of the following is essential if a hypothesis is to be testable? Write the correct letter in your answer.

A It must predict the direction of the difference between the two conditions.
B It must be written in the null form before the study begins.
C Its variables must be stated in a form that can be measured or manipulated.
D It must be supported by at least two previous published studies.

(Total for Question 2 is 1 mark)

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3 A psychologist investigates the capacity of short-term memory. Sixty adult volunteers are randomly allocated to one of two conditions. In the three-group condition each participant is read a string of twelve digits arranged as three groups of four; in the four-group condition the same twelve digits are read as four groups of three. Every participant then writes down as many digits as they can recall in the correct position. The psychologist records the number of digits recalled in the correct position out of twelve. No previous study has compared these two groupings directly, so the researcher cannot predict which will produce better recall.

Write a non-directional hypothesis for this study.

(Total for Question 3 is 3 marks)

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4 A psychologist investigates whether physical attractiveness affects how much people are willing to disclose about themselves. Sixty adults each have a five-minute conversation with a partner who has been independently rated by a panel as either highly attractive or average in attractiveness. The number of personal facts each participant volunteers during the conversation is counted.

Erin writes the following hypothesis: 'Participants who talk to a highly attractive partner will volunteer more personal facts during the five-minute conversation than participants who talk to a partner of average attractiveness.'

State how many of the three available marks Erin would earn, and justify your answer.

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

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Mark scheme · 7.6 How to Write a Hypothesis: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

IV: whether the answer is given out loud in front of the confederates or privately in writing oe	**B1**
DV: the number of the eighteen critical trials answered incorrectly oe	**B1**

Answer: IV: whether the answer is given publicly out loud or privately in writing. DV: the number of incorrect answers out of eighteen critical trials.

Question 2

C. A hypothesis can only be tested if its variables are operationalised, that is stated in a measurable or manipulable form	**B1**

Answer: C

Question 3

a statement, not an aim or a question, making a non-directional prediction, stated clearly enough to be understood on a single reading oe	**B1**
both conditions of the independent variable are named in operationalised form: whether the twelve digits are read as three groups of four or as four groups of three oe	**B1**
the dependent variable is stated in operationalised form: the number of digits recalled in the correct position out of twelve oe	**B1**

Answer: There will be a difference in the number of digits recalled in the correct position out of twelve between participants who hear the digits read as three groups of four and participants who hear them read as four groups of three.

Question 4

3 marks	**B1**
justification: it is a clear directional prediction naming both conditions of the IV, highly attractive and average attractiveness, and it operationalises the DV as the number of personal facts volunteered during the five-minute conversation oe	**B1**

Answer: 3 marks. It is a clearly stated directional prediction, it names both conditions of the independent variable, and the dependent variable is operationalised as the number of personal facts volunteered in the five-minute conversation.

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