7.8 Types of Experiment: Laboratory, Field, Natural and Quasi-Experiments: Test Pack

AQA 7182 · about 15 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Define a laboratory experiment in the context of psychological research, naming the typical setting and the level of control over variables.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 Define a natural experiment in psychological research, and state one reason why a natural experiment might be used instead of a laboratory experiment.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

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3 Outline two ethical or practical issues that are especially relevant to conducting field experiments in public places, such as a park or shopping centre.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

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4 Vignette: A study compares levels of social anxiety in students born in January with students born in June, measuring responses on a social anxiety questionnaire. The researcher selects intact birth-month groups and does not allocate participants to groups. Identify the type of experiment and explain your reasoning concerning the IV.

(Total for Question 4 is 3 marks)

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Mark scheme · 7.8 Types of Experiment: Laboratory, Field, Natural and Quasi-Experiments: Test Pack

Question 1

states that a laboratory experiment takes place in a controlled, artificial setting such as a research lab or classroom set up for the study oe — **B1**

states that the researcher has high control over variables and can manipulate the IV and control extraneous variables oe — **B1**

Answer: A laboratory experiment takes place in a controlled, artificial setting (for example a research laboratory) where the researcher manipulates the independent variable and exerts high control over extraneous variables.

Question 2

states that a natural experiment uses an IV that varies naturally and is not manipulated by the researcher, occurring in real life oe — **B1**

gives a reason such as it is used when manipulation would be impractical or unethical, or when a real-world event provides the IV oe — **B1**

Answer: A natural experiment studies the effect of an independent variable that varies naturally, without researcher manipulation, often used when manipulating the IV would be impractical or unethical, or when a real-world event provides the variable.

Question 3

identifies an issue such as lack of informed consent or covert observation oe — **M1**

explains why this is a concern, e.g. participants are unaware they are studied so consent and autonomy are compromised, and this may cause distress or privacy invasion oe — **A1**

identifies a second issue such as safety, disruption to the public, or difficulty in debriefing participants oe — **M1**

explains the practical consequence, e.g. logistical difficulties obtaining permission from venues, inability to contact participants later for debriefing, or risk of causing upset or safety hazards oe — **A1**

Answer: Issues include lack of informed consent or covert observation, which compromises participant autonomy and privacy because people do not know they are part of research, and practical problems such as difficulty obtaining venue permission, inability to debrief or contact participants afterwards, and potential disruption or safety risks to the public.

Question 4

identifies the design as a quasi-experiment cao — **B1**

explains that the IV (birth month) is an existing characteristic and not manipulated by the researcher oe — **M1**

notes that because the researcher does not randomly assign participants, there may be confounding participant variables between the groups oe — **A1**

Answer: Quasi-experiment, because the independent variable is an existing characteristic (birth month) that the researcher does not manipulate, and participants are not randomly assigned, so participant variables may confound the comparison.

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