7.13 Reliability and Validity in Psychological Research: 10-minute Pack

AQA 7182 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Define the term 'validity' in psychological research and name two different forms of validity that researchers check for.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 Explain briefly how test-retest reliability is assessed and give one practical way a psychologist could improve test-retest reliability for a self-report questionnaire about stress.

(Total for Question 2 is 3 marks)

3 Outline what is meant by internal validity in the context of an experiment testing whether background music affects concentration on a cognitive task. Mention one example of a confounding variable in this study.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 7.13 Reliability and Validity in Psychological Research: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

definition: validity is the extent to which a test or method measures what it is supposed to measure oe **B1**

two forms named, e.g. internal validity and ecological validity (or face validity and concurrent validity) oe **B1**

Answer: Validity is how well a test or method measures what it is intended to measure. Examples of forms: internal validity and ecological validity.

Question 2

explains assessment: the same test is given to the same participants on two occasions and the scores are correlated to assess consistency oe **M1**

gives a practical improvement, e.g. standardising instructions and testing interval, and ensuring the interval is appropriate to avoid real change in stress oe **B1**

explains why the improvement helps: consistent administration reduces extraneous variation that would lower the correlation oe **A1**

Answer: Test-retest reliability is assessed by giving the same test to the same people on two occasions and correlating the scores. To improve it for a stress questionnaire, standardise instructions and use an appropriate interval between tests so participants' real stress is unlikely to change; this reduces extraneous variation and increases consistency.

Question 3

outline: internal validity is the extent to which a study demonstrates a causal relationship between the IV and DV, with results not due to confounding variables oe **M1**

applies to the context: here it means whether any difference in concentration is due to background music rather than other factors oe **M1**

gives one confounding variable example, e.g. differences in participants' baseline concentration ability or recent caffeine intake oe **B1**

explains why it is a confound in context, e.g. if one condition contains more naturally attentive participants or more caffeinated participants, concentration scores may differ for that reason rather than due to music oe **A1**

Answer: Internal validity is the extent to which the experiment can show that background music caused any change in concentration rather than other factors. A confounding variable could be participants' baseline concentration ability or recent caffeine intake, which would affect scores independently of the music condition.

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