2.8 Experiments in Sociological Research: Laboratory and Field Experiments: 10-minute Pack

AQA 8192 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. For short answer questions write in full sentences for AO2 and AO3 items. The final evaluation question must be written in full sentences. Spend about 10 minutes on the paper.

1 Using Item A again, explain two weaknesses of this field experiment that might make the results unreliable.

(Total for Question 1 is 4 marks)

2 Define the term 'control group' as it is used in a sociological laboratory experiment.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

3 State one way the Hawthorne effect can influence the results of a field experiment in a workplace setting.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

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Mark scheme · 2.8 Experiments in Sociological Research: Laboratory and Field Experiments: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

identifies a weakness, e.g. lack of control of extraneous variables such as weather or park events	**B1**
development, e.g. a festival in Park Y could explain higher littering rather than the absence of a poster	**B1**
identifies a second weakness, e.g. observer effects or inconsistent recording methods between parks	**B1**
development, e.g. different observers might count incidents differently, reducing reliability of the comparison	**B1**

Answer: A weakness is lack of control over extraneous variables, for example a festival or different visitor numbers in Park Y could explain higher littering rather than the poster. Another weakness is observer effects or inconsistent recording between parks, where different observers might count incidents differently, reducing reliability.

Question 2

identifies a control group as the group not exposed to the experimental treatment or manipulation (oe)	**B1**
development, e.g. it provides a baseline for comparison to see the effect of the independent variable	**B1**

Answer: A control group is the group not exposed to the experimental treatment, providing a baseline for comparison so the effect of the independent variable can be seen.

Question 3

identifies that participants may change their behaviour because they know they are being observed	**B1**
brief development, e.g. this can make it hard to tell whether the change is due to the experimental variable or just being observed	**B1**

Answer: Participants may change their behaviour because they know they are being observed, making it hard to tell whether changes are due to the experimental variable or simply the observation.

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