



Research methods 2: experiments - IV, DV & hypotheses

Module

PSYB2
PSYB1

Sections A, B & C
Section C

Important: this material is examined on **both AS modules**. On **PSYB2** it is examined through the social psychology (social influence), cognitive psychology (remembering and forgetting) and individual differences (anxiety disorders) topics. On your PSYB2 paper, **one** of the three topics (you cannot predict which) will contain questions that test your knowledge and understanding of research methods, to the value of **6 marks** (10% of the marks available). On your **PSYB1** paper, there is an entire section on research methods, to the value of **20 marks** (33% of the marks available).

What we will be learning about

In this topic we will focus on the experimental method, which is the cornerstone of scientific psychology. We will learn what IV and DV are, and how to state a hypothesis. We will be revisiting a range of research from the social, cognitive and individual differences topics.

What you could be tested on

	A01 – knowledge & understanding	A02 – application, analysis & evaluation	A03 – methods, statistics & ethics (how science works)
You must be able to...	Outline the nature and purpose of the experimental method. Define IV and DV. Explain what a hypothesis is.	Analyse examples to identify IV and DV. Formulate basic alternative hypotheses.	Demonstrate these knowledge, understanding and skills in the context of material drawn from the PSYB2 topics (social, cognitive, individual differences).
You should be able to...	Explain the concept of operationalisation. Outline the relationship between levels of IV and conditions in an experiment. Explain what a null hypothesis is.	Analyse examples in terms of how variables were operationalised. Formulate operationalised alternative and null hypotheses.	As above.
You could be able to...	Explain the purpose of the null hypothesis.	Critically consider how different psychological variables might be operationalised.	As above.