



# Coursework design

## Module 3 skill A: design

### This activity will help you to...

- Plan your investigation effectively
- Write your report appropriately

**Important:** your investigation can take the form of an experiment or a survey but it must involve a comparison between groups or between conditions. Topics for investigation must be drawn from the AQA-B specification and must be approved by your teacher before any data are collected.

## Aim, variables & hypotheses

On which theory/study is your investigation based?

What is your **aim** (i.e. you are investigating the effect of *what* on *what*)?

What are your **variables** and how have you operationalised them?

V1 (IV):

Operational definition:

V2 (DV):

Operational definition:

What is your **alternative/experimental hypothesis** (this must be directly testable)?

What is your **null hypothesis**?

## Design & controls

What is your **experimental/research design** (how will you set up the conditions/groups to be compared?)

Independent measures

Repeated measures

(circle as appropriate)

How will you **control** for the effect of the inherent weaknesses of your chosen design (independent measures – participant variables; repeated measures – practice, order & fatigue effects)?

What potential **nuisance/confounding variable** have you identified that might affect the outcome of your investigation (NB: must be something that may systematically affect your outcome measure)?

What effect might this variable have on the validity of your results/conclusions (be specific – how will the outcome measure be affected; how might this affect the conclusions drawn)?

How will you **control** for the effect of this variable (i.e. prevent it from affecting one condition/group more than the other)?

## Target population & sample

What is your **target population** for this investigation (i.e. to which group will you realistically be able to generalize)?

What will be your **sampling technique**?

Opportunity

Systematic

Stratified

Random

Projected sample size

Details of how sampling will be carried out:

Why is this a suitable sampling technique/strategy?

## Ethical issues

For each of the following **ethical issues** outline what the risks are in your investigation and, if appropriate, what steps you will take to meet your ethical obligations towards your participants.

Informed consent	Risks:	Steps:
Deception	Risks:	Steps:
Risk of harm	Risks:	Steps:
Privacy	Risks:	Steps:
Confidentiality	Risks:	Steps:

## Task and materials

Describe what the PPs will have to do in your study in order to generate your data.

Outline what **materials** you will need (e.g. word lists, questionnaires) and how you will create them/where you will obtain them.

Material:	Source/details of construction:
Material:	Source/details of construction:
Material:	Source/details of construction:

How will PPs performance/behaviour be translated into analyzable **data**?