

Research Design

This activity will help you to...

- Revise the main concepts involved in designing experiments
- Apply your knowledge to ensure you understand the ideas properly

For each of the following research situations, design an experiment to investigate it. In your experimental plan...

You must...

- Give a brief outline of the experiment
- State what are the IV and the DV
- Suggest a suitable alternative hypothesis for the experiment

You should...

- Explain how your IV and DV would be operationalised
- Explain whether (and why) your hypothesis is directional or not
- Suggest some suitable controls
- Explain which experimental design you would use

You could...

- Explain the importance of the controls you have selected
- Outline the advantages and disadvantages of the experimental design you have chosen

Example 1

An investigation to find out whether listening to music affects the quality of college work.

Example 2

An investigation to find out whether one or other sex is more superstitious

Example 3

An investigation to find out whether studying psychology makes you happy

Example 4

Another investigation based on your own ideas...