Research Methods

Self Assessment Sheet

	Things you **must** be able to do: All A01	Things you **should** be able to do: Both A01 and A02	Things you **could** be able to do: All A02
Experiments	❑ Describe what is involved in an experiment ❑ Identify IV & DV ❑ Identify controls ❑ Distinguish between lab, field & natural experiments	❑ Distinguish between independent & repeated measures & matched PPs design ❑ Explain why controls are necessary ❑ State advantaged & disadvantages of lab & field settings	❑ Explain strengths & weaknesses of different experimental designs ❑ Design an experiment stating IV, DV, suitable controls & setting ❑ Explain strengths & weaknesses of experimentation
Observations	❑ Describe what is involved in a naturalistic observation ❑ Select behaviour categories for conducting an observation ❑ Draw up a behaviour coding sheet	❑ Explain what an operational definition is ❑ Explain reasons for selecting/rejecting behaviour categories in an observation ❑ Distinguish between time & event sampling ❑ Distinguish between covert & overt observations	❑ Explain strengths & weaknesses of covert & overt observations ❑ Design an observational study stating behavioural categories, covert/overt & sampling method ❑ Explain strengths & weaknesses of observation
Correlational Studies	❑ Describe what is involved in a correlational study ❑ Interpret data from a scattergraph ❑ Identify outliers	❑ Interpret data from a coefficient ❑ Distinguish between primary & secondary data ❑ Explain the causality problem ❑ Explain the third variable problem	❑ Explain strengths & weaknesses of primary & secondary data ❑ Design an observational study stating variables & data source ❑ Explain strengths & weaknesses of correlational studies
Surveys	❑ Describe what is involved in a questionnaire survey ❑ Distinguish between open and closed questions	❑ Describe the procedure for piloting questionnaires ❑ Explain strengths & weaknesses of closed and open questions ❑ Describe the use of Likert scales ❑ Explain socially desirable response bias	❑ Explain ways of avoiding response bias ❑ Design a questionnaire survey identifying question types, personal data and ways of avoiding bias ❑ Explain strengths & weaknesses of surveys
Interviews	❑ Describe what is involved in an interview ❑ Distinguish between open and closed questions ❑ Distinguish between structures and unstructured interviews ❑ Outline ways of recording interview data	❑ Explain what is meant by interviewer bias ❑ Explain strengths & weaknesses of structured & unstructured interviews ❑ Explain strengths & weaknesses of different ways of recording data	❑ Explain ways of avoiding interviewer bias ❑ Design an interview study, stating type of questions, degree of structure & data recording technique ❑ Explain strengths & weaknesses of surveys

Resource contributed by Aidan Sammons