Research methods, class practicals and the research proposal (Paper 2; IA)

International Baccalaureate · IB Diploma · Psychology · HL · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
class practicals	**Class practicals** are small experiments you do in class.
internal assessment	The **internal assessment** reports a simple experiment.
research proposal /rɪ'sɜːtʃ prə'pəʊzl/	Your **research proposal** plans a study.
population of interest	The **population of interest** is the group you want to learn about.
quantitative data /'kwɒntɪteɪtɪv 'deɪtə/	Reaction times are **quantitative data**.
qualitative data /'kwɒlɪteɪtɪv 'deɪtə/	Interview answers are **qualitative data**.
experiment /ek'sperɪmənt/	In an **experiment**, we give treatments and measure the results.
independent variable /ˌɪndɪ'pendənt 'veərɪəbl/	The **independent variable** is the one you change.
dependent variable /dɪ'pendənt 'veərɪəbl/	The **dependent variable** is the one you measure.
confounding variable /kən'faʊndɪŋ 'veərɪəbl/	A **confounding variable** could explain the result instead.

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Word	Example
research hypothesis	A **research hypothesis** predicts what the study will find.
null hypothesis /nʌl haɪ'pɒθəsɪs/	The **null hypothesis** says there is no difference between the groups.
experimental designs	**Experimental designs** include repeated measures and independent samples.
counterbalancing /'kaʊntəbælənsɪŋ/	**Counterbalancing** changes the order of tasks for different groups.
laboratory experiment	A **laboratory experiment** is done in a controlled room.
ecological validity	**Ecological validity** asks whether a test is like a real game.
field experiment	A **field experiment** is done in a real-life setting.
natural experiment	In a **natural experiment**, the change happens without the researcher.
quasi-experiment	A **quasi-experiment** compares groups that already exist, like men and women.
random sampling /'rændəm 'sæmplɪŋ/	**Random sampling** gives everyone in the population an equal chance.
opportunity sampling	In **opportunity sampling**, you ask whoever is there, such as people at the gate.
self-selected sampling	**Self-selected sampling** uses people who volunteer.
purposive sampling /pɜː'pəʊsɪv 'sæmplɪŋ/	**Purposive sampling** chooses people with a special feature.

Word	Example
snowball sampling /ˈsnəʊbɔːl ˈsæmplɪŋ/	In **snowball sampling**, each participant finds the next one.
questionnaire	A **questionnaire** asks residents about water use.
Likert scale	A **Likert scale** asks how much you agree, from 1 to 5. 1 5
social desirability bias	**Social desirability bias** makes people give answers that look good.
interview /ˈɪntəvjuː/	In an **interview**, the researcher asks questions face to face.
focus group /ˈfəʊkəs gruːp/	A **focus group** is a small group discussion.
observation /ɒbzəˈveɪʃn/	In an **observation**, the researcher watches behaviour.
behaviour checklist	A **behaviour checklist** lists the actions to count.
inter-rater reliability /ˈɪntə ˈreɪtə rɪˌlaɪəˈbɪlɪti/	**Inter-rater reliability** checks whether two observers agree.
participant bias	**Participant bias** happens when participants change how they act.
demand characteristics /dɪˈmænd ˌkærɪktəˈrɪstɪks/	**Demand characteristics** are clues that tell participants what the study is about.
researcher bias	**Researcher bias** happens when the researcher's beliefs affect the results.
double-blind /ˈdʌbl blaɪnd/	In a **double-blind** study, neither the athletes nor the testers know who got the real drink.

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Word	Example
generalisability	**Generalisability** asks whether results apply to other people.
credibility /ˌkredɪˈbɪlɪti/	A doctor has **credibility** when talking about health.
triangulation	**Triangulation** uses several methods to check a result.
transferability /trænsˌfɜːrəˈbɪlɪti/	**Transferability** asks whether findings fit other settings.
informed consent /ɪnˈfɔːmd kənˈsent/	Get **informed consent** before you interview people.
right to withdraw	Participants have the **right to withdraw** at any time.
deception	**Deception** means not telling participants the full truth.
debriefing	**Debriefing** explains the study after it ends.
protection from harm	**Protection from harm** keeps participants safe.
confidentiality /ˌkɒnfɪˌdenʃiˈæləti/	Doctors keep **confidentiality**: they do not share patients' information.