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| Key Words |
| **Independent Variable-** The variable directly manipulated by the researcher.  **Dependent Variable**- The variable being measured in a study.  **Operationalisation-** Making the variables in an investigation detailed and specific.  **Extraneous Variable-** A variable that is not controlled, which could affect the results of a study.  **Confounding Variable-** An extraneous variable that affects the results of the study so that the effect of the IV is not truly being seen.  **Situational Variable-** An extraneous variable present in the environment of the study.  **Participant Variable-** Extraneous variables specific to the participants of an investigation.  **Order Effects-** When participants improve or worsen in the second condition because they have practised or become fatigued.  **Demand Characteristics-** When the participant alters their behaviour in response to the perceived aims of the investigation.  **Standardised Procedure-** Where the procedure of a study is the same across all conditions.  **Counterbalancing-** Where half the participant group experience condition A and then condition B, while the other half experience condition B then condition A.  **Single Blind Technique-** When information about the study is withheld from participants.  **Double Blind Technique**- When the aims of the study is withheld from both participants and researchers.  **Alternative hypothesis-** A prediction of the outcome of a study based on what is expected to happen.  **Directional Hypothesis-** A hypothesis that predicts the direction the results will go in.  **Non-directional Hypothesis-** A hypothesis that predicts that a difference/relationship will be found, but does not specify what the difference/relationship will be.  **Null Hypothesis-** A prediction that the results will fail to show any difference (or relationship) that is consistent or systematic.  **Independent Measures Design-** Participants are split into groups with each group tested in only one condition.  **Repeated Measures Design-** The same participants are used in all conditions.  **Matched Pairs Design**- Different participants are used in each condition but are matched for likeness on important characteristics e.g. IQ.  **Descriptive Statistics**- Ways of summarising data to make raw data easier to understand (mean, mode, median, range and graphs)  **Bar charts**- A graph to show categories of data; a way of summarising data, which can then be compared.  **Histogram**- Illustrates frequency to show the distribution of continuous data.  **Tally-** A way of recording each instance of something using a vertical mark for each instance.  **Scatter Graph**- A graph used to illustrate a relationship or correlation between two variables to see if they co-vary |

Research Methods

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| **Questionnaires**   * Questionnaires are a self-report technique designed to ask lots of people questions. * Can be distributed on paper or online. * **Closed Questions-** Questions with a fixed response to choose from. * **Open Questions-** Questions with no fixed response.   **Interviews**   * A research method designed to gather self-reported information from participants. * Can be face to face or over the phone/online. * **Structured interview-** A set of pre-set questions asked to a respondent. * **Semi-structured interview-** A mix of pre-set questions and unprepared questions asked to a respondent. * **Unstructured interview-** A free-flowing conversation around a particular topic. | **Observations**   * A research method that involves watching and recording behaviour. * Can establish inter-rater reliability if more than one researcher records behaviour. * **Naturalistic Observation-** An observation conducted in an everyday environment where the behaviour is normally seen. * **Structured Observation-** An observation carried out in a lab or controlled environment * **Overt Observation-** Participants know they are being observed. * **Covert Observation-** Participants are unaware they are being observed. * **Participant Observation-** When an observer is involved in the group they are observing. * **Non-participant Observation-** The observer watches and records people without being actively involved. |
| **Correlations**   * A way of analysing relationships between variables. * Instead of an IV and DV,co-variables are used as two variables that can be plotted against each other to indicate the type of relationship. * **Positive correlation-** As one co-variable increases, the other increases. * **Negative correlation-** As one co-variable increases, the other decreases. | **Experiments**   * Cause and effect established by having an IV and a DV. * **Laboratory Experiment-** An experiment staged in an artificial environment. * **Field Experiment-** An experiment staged in a naturalistic environment. * **Natural Experiment-** A study that examines a naturally occurring variable in a real-life situation. |
| **Sampling**   * Sampling is a techniqueused to gather a representative group of people as a sample from the target population. * **Random sampling-** A technique used to gather a random sample of participants from the target population. * **Stratified sampling-** A technique that ensures subgroups of the target population are proportionately represented in a sample. * **Volunteer sampling-** A technique that asks for participants by placing an advert for volunteers. * **Opportunity sampling-** A technique that recruits participants who are readily available at the time. * **Biased sample-** When the sample recruited is made up of a particular type of person which may not reflect the target population. | **Case Studies**   * A study of a single person, group or event. * Studies unusual and interesting phenomena. * Can gather data from a variety of sources (e.g. studies, medical records, interviews). |
| **Ethics**   * Researchers follow codes or rules of conduct when carrying out research to protect participants from harm. * **Right to withdraw-** Ensuring that participants are clearly aware of their results to leave the study at any point. * **Informed consent-** Agreement of participants to take part once they are fully aware of the nature of the study. * **Deception-** Misleading participants. * **Debrief-** After an investigation participants are given full disclosure. * **Confidentiality-** Not disclosing the identity of participants. * **Protection of participants**- Safeguarding participants against physical and psychological harm. |