|  |
| --- |
| 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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **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.
 |