

EXAM-DAY · 90-MIN REVISION CARD

Methods of Enquiry in Psychology

Print this · Fold it · Carry to the exam-hall gate · Revise once · Then walk in.

FORMULAS & KEY RESULTS

GOALS of enquiry:
DESCRIPTION (what) |
PREDICTION (when/if) |
EXPLANATION (why) |
CONTROL (bring about/stop) |
APPLICATION (human welfare).

SCIENTIFIC METHOD steps:
Problem -> Hypothesis ->
Collect data -> Analyse data ->
Conclusion -> Revise
conclusions.

VARIABLES: IV = manipulated
(cause) | DV = measured
(effect, 'depends on' IV) |
Extraneous = must be
controlled.

GROUPS: Experimental group =
gets the treatment | Control
group = no treatment (baseline
for comparison).

OBSERVATION: Naturalistic (real
setting) vs Controlled (lab) |
Participant vs Non-participant.

CORRELATION: +ve (both rise) |
-ve (one rises, other falls) | zero
(no relation). **CORRELATION** \neq **CAUSATION**.

NON-EXPERIMENTAL methods:
Survey (wide+shallow) |
Interview | Case study
(narrow+deep) | Psychological
test.

DATA: Quantitative (numbers,
statistics) vs Qualitative (words,
themes, meaning).

ETHICS: Voluntary + INFORMED
consent | No harm |
DEBRIEFING |
CONFIDENTIALITY | share
results responsibly.

TOP 5 PYQ PATTERNS

1 State and explain the goals of psychological enquiry

4 marks · 85% of years

List all goals first (description, prediction, explanation, control, application), then one line + example each.

2 Explain the experimental method / distinguish IV from DV and experimental from control group

5 marks · 80% of years

Define IV (manipulated) vs DV (measured); control group gets NO treatment; only experiments prove causation.

3 What is correlation? Correlation does not imply causation

4 marks · 70% of years

Define +ve/-ve/zero correlation, then use the ice-cream-and-drowning third-variable example to prove no causation.

4 Distinguish naturalistic vs controlled / participant vs non-participant observation

3 marks · 60% of years

Naturalistic = real setting no interference; controlled = structured/lab; participant = observer joins the group.

5 Case study: choose the right method + state the ethical issues

6 marks · 65% of years

Spot the cue, name the method, name IV/DV if any, then list informed consent, debriefing and confidentiality.

90-MIN REVISION FLOW

0-15 min

Write the FIVE goals of psychological enquiry (description, prediction, explanation, control, application) with a one-line example for each, then list the six steps of the scientific method in order.

15-30 min

Draw the experiment box: define IV vs DV, write what the experimental and control groups receive, and add one worked example (e.g. noise -> concentration). Self-test by labelling IV and DV in two fresh situations.

30-45 min

Sketch the three correlations (+ve, -ve, zero) and write the ice-cream-and-drowning example to explain why correlation does NOT imply causation. Add the third-variable warning.

45-60 min

Make a comparison table of the non-experimental methods (observation, survey, interview, case study, psychological test) with one strength and one limitation each, plus quantitative vs qualitative data.

60-75 min

Take the 15-MCQ Quick Drill under a 20-minute timer. Target \geq 12/15. Memorise the four ethics points: consent, no harm, debriefing, confidentiality.

75-90 min

Review every wrong answer, re-read the matching notes slide, and rewrite the one definition (likely IV/ DV or correlation) you fumbled. Done.

Confidence, not anxiety. You've practised this all year. Trust your steps. Don't change strategy on exam morning.
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