

Psychology Bridging Work – Task 4 – Introducing Research Methods?



Psychology – The science of the mind and behaviour



This task is designed to give you an idea of the content in the research methods unit, and to bridge the gap from GCSE to A-level. All of the tasks on this sheet cover content that you will be familiar with from GCSE Maths and Science.

The mean is calculated by adding together all of the values in a set of scores and then dividing the total by the number of values in the set.

Specification:

Descriptive statistics: measures of central tendency – mean, median, mode; calculation of mean, median and mode.

The median is the middle value in a set of scores. To find the median you must arrange all the values in order from lowest to highest. Then you must find the middle value. If there is no middle value because you have an even number of values, then find the midpoint of the two middle values.

The mode is the most frequently occurring value in a set of scores. Sometimes there is no mode and sometimes there is more than one mode.

Calculate the mean, median and mode for the data sets below:

Set 1: 23, 19, 24, 47, 23, 20 Mean _____ Median _____ Mode _____

Set 2: 45, 44, 43, 44, 46, 48 Mean _____ Median _____ Mode _____

Specification:

Variables: manipulation and control of variables, including independent, dependent.

Variable – A factor or thing that varies: it can change.

Independent variable (IV) – the factor which will be varied or changed in an experiment to look for an effect on the other variable. (The one changed by the experimenter to see an effect).

Dependent variable (DV) – The factor which will be measured in an experiment to see if changing the IV has had an effect. (What is actually measured to obtain a result).

The following studies all appear in A-level Psychology paper 1 and will be the basis of all of your bridging tasks from now on. For each one pick out the independent variable and the dependent variable:

Zimbardo et (1973) was interested in whether people would conform to a social role they were given. A mock prison was set up in the basement of the psychology department at Stanford University. Male student volunteers were psychologically and physically screened and the 24 most stable were randomly assigned to the role of 'prisoner' or 'guard'. Prisoners were unexpectedly arrested at home, put through a delousing procedure, given a uniform and assigned an ID number. They were given 3 meals and 3 supervised toilet trips a day. Guards were given uniforms, clubs, whistles and wore reflective sunglasses.

IV _____

DV _____

Godden and Baddeley (1975) investigated the effects of contextual cues on forgetting. The researchers recruited scuba divers as participants and arranged for them to learn a set of words on land or underwater. Subsequently they were tested on land or underwater, so there were four experimental conditions.

IV _____

DV _____

Lorenz (1935) wanted to test the effect of imprinting. He took a clutch of gosling eggs and divided them into two groups. One group was left with their natural mother while the other eggs were placed in an incubator. When the incubator eggs hatched the first (moving) thing they saw was Lorenz and they soon started following him around. To test this Lorenz marked the two groups to distinguish them and placed them together. Both Lorenz and their natural mother were present.

IV _____

DV _____

Watson and Raynor (1920) sought to demonstrate that emotional responses could be learned through classical conditioning. Their 'subject' was an 11 month old boy called 'Little Albert'. At the beginning of the study Albert showed no fear response to white furry objects; a white rat, a white rabbit and white cotton wool. In subsequent trials Watson and Raynor struck a 4 foot long steel bar with a hammer whenever Albert reached for the rat to startle him. After several trials Albert began to cry when he was shown the white rat and other furry objects.

IV _____

DV _____

<https://www.simplypsychology.org/variables.html>

Follow this link to learn more about variables.