CAMBRIDGE
International Education

Cambridge IGCSE™ Psychology 0266

Lesson 3: Research methods 7.1 Experimental method	
Learning objective	To gain knowledge and understanding of experimental methods
Lesson objectives	By the end of the lesson, learners will be able to: • Explain experimental groups and control groups • Explain experimental conditions and operationalising variables • Apply knowledge of the experimental method to novel scenarios
Vocabulary	**Experimental conditions:** levels of the independent variable that are manipulated in an experiment. **Operationalised:** defining a variable or behavioural category so it can be accurately measured or observed. **Experimental groups:** participants who experience the experimental condition(s). **Control groups:** participants who do not experience the experimental condition(s) and are used as a comparison group.
Previous learning	Learners have learned about experimental design and independent and dependent variables.

Plan		
Activities		**Resources**
Beginning (5 mins)	Learners complete the starter activity refreshing and assessing their knowledge of key terms.	
Middle (50 mins)	• Explain the key terms ‘experimental groups’ and ‘control groups’ and ask learners to add these to their glossaries / notes. • Ask learners to work in pairs to identify / suggest the ‘experimental groups’ and ‘control groups’ in each scenario. • Introduce the idea of operationalising variables. Share the definition of the key term for learners to add to their glossaries / notes. • Returning to the scenarios, ask learners to work in pairs to suggest at least one way to operationalise the IV and DV in each scenario.	

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End (5 mins)	Learners can check understanding by creating an example experiment of their own for use next lesson.	

Reflection and evaluation

Reflection:

Summary evaluation:

What two things went really well? (Consider both teaching and learning.)

1.

2.

What two things would have improved the lesson? (Consider both teaching and learning.)

1.

2.

What have I learned from this lesson about the class or individuals that will inform my next lesson?

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