



# Research methods 2: experiments - IV, DV & hypotheses

**Module**      **PSYB2**                      **Sections A, B & C**  
                     **PSYB1**                      **Section C**

**Important:** this material is examined on **both AS modules**. On **PSYB2** it is examined through the social psychology (social influence), cognitive psychology (remembering and forgetting) and individual differences (anxiety disorders) topics. On your PSYB2 paper, **one** of the three topics (you cannot predict which) will contain questions that test your knowledge and understanding of research methods, to the value of **6 marks** (10% of the marks available). On your **PSYB1** paper, there is an entire section on research methods, to the value of **20 marks** (33% of the marks available).

## What we will be learning about

In this topic we will focus on the experimental method, which is the cornerstone of scientific psychology. We will learn what IV and DV are, and how to state a hypothesis. We will be revisiting a range of research from the social, cognitive and individual differences topics.

## What you could be tested on

	<b>A01 – knowledge &amp; understanding</b>	<b>A02 – application, analysis &amp; evaluation</b>	<b>A03 – methods, statistics &amp; ethics (how science works)</b>
<b>You must be able to...</b>	<b>Outline</b> the nature and purpose of the experimental method. <b>Define</b> IV and DV. <b>Explain</b> what a hypothesis is.	<b>Analyse</b> examples to identify IV and DV. <b>Formulate</b> basic alternative hypotheses.	<b>Demonstrate</b> these knowledge, understanding and skills in the context of material drawn from the PSYB2 topics (social, cognitive, individual differences).
<b>You should be able to...</b>	<b>Explain</b> the concept of operationalisation. <b>Outline</b> the relationship between levels of IV and conditions in an experiment. <b>Explain</b> what a null hypothesis is.	<b>Analyse</b> examples in terms of how variables were operationalised. <b>Formulate</b> operationalised alternative and null hypotheses.	As above.
<b>You could be able to...</b>	<b>Explain</b> the purpose of the null hypothesis.	<b>Critically consider</b> how different psychological variables might be operationalised.	As above.