Research Methods I

Mock Exam Indicative Answers: December 2021

Section A: Multiple choice questions – total out of 25

Study 1:

1. A – The design of the study was **correlational** 2 marks
2. A – The study found a **significant negative relationship between introversion and prejudice** 3 marks
3. A **-** The hypothesis of the study predicted a **negative correlation between introversion and prejudice** 3 marks
4. D **-** A probability of less than 5 in 100 is expressed as **p < .05** 3 marks

Study 2:

1. C – The method of data collection used was **semi-structured interviews** 2 marks
2. A – Responsibility of the researcher = To use open-ended prompts to help guide the discussions when needed but ensure that participants feel able to express their own view and opinions 3 marks
3. B – IPA over thematic analysis because **He wanted to understand the lived experiences of the individuals and IPA allows for more depth in interpretation.** 3 marks
4. D – Important data are kept secure and confidential **So that individuals, places and organisations cannot be harmed through identification or disclosure of personal information** 3 marks
5. D **- All of the above** 3 marks

Section B: Short answer questions – total out of 50

Study A:

1. Design = within-subjects
   This type of design may be preferable for this study as there would be no influence of individual differences (as with between-subjects) and a comparison could be made within participants to assess whether one of the two types of music does have an influence on aggression (controlling individual differences). Total of 2 marks
2. IV = type of music. Levels of 'classical' and 'death metal' make up the manipulation. Total of 2 marks
3. DV = aggression levels measured through a questionnaire completed following an excerpt of classical music and death metal music Total of 2 marks
4. Possible responses: inclusion of both males and females based on previous literature being inconsistent in reporting differences in aggression overall; counterbalancing of conditions important for within-subjects design to eliminate potential for order

effects, fatigue, practice effects; inclusion of equivalent forms of the aggression questionnaire rather than using the same questionnaire twice Total of 6 marks

To gain higher marks for this question, responses should provide some indication of WHY the controlling of the variables stated is important.

5. Potential confound could be preference for one of the two types of music (mentioned in scenario but not accounted for), or not including an assessment of baseline aggression. Total of 6 marks

   Confounding variables are those that can have an impact on both the IV and the DV, therefore including potential confounds such as temperature, noise or gender would not be relevant to the question being asked. If a confound is suggested then it must be clear why you would consider this to have an effect as well as how the student could deal with them. Full marks will not be awarded unless an attempt has been made to respond to the second part of this question.

6. Potential for inducing aggression, changing mood of participants, etc.

   Including information about the standard ethical considerations that should be included in every research study (consent, debrief, right to withdraw) is relevant but is not what the question is asking.

   For higher marks for this question, students must respond to both parts of the question with a relevant indication as to HOW the ethical issue mentioned could be resolved. Total of 6 marks

Study B:

1. Needs to include a comparison between interviews and focus groups and justify the chosen method based upon the topic being explored. Interviews would be preferable given the topic of maternal and medical care. 4 marks
2. Researcher herself is only six-months post-partum – potential for researcher bias within the questions being asked as she has had personal experience of receiving antenatal care during the period that she is exploring in her research (covid-19 pandemic). She also attended the same hospital that she has recruited participants from. Total of 10 marks
3. Ethics breaches: includes, but not limited to; *students must allude to the reasons why these are issues with reference to BPS ethics if required.*
   a. Recruitment of participants was different to how specified in ethics submission/approval.
   b. Possible coercion in approaching participants to take part
   c. Change of technique to collect data – stated interviews and changed to focus groups. Also lack of anonymity/confidentiality as would have been specified to participants in information sheet/consent form.
   d. Change in questions being asked
   e. Discussion of personal and medical information with 'friend' – not only discussing personal information with someone outside of the research team but also with another participants who took part in the focus group – breach of confidentiality

   Total of 12 marks

Section C: Basic Statistics Questions

1. Mean = 10 5 marks
2. Median = 6.5 5 marks
3. Mode = 3 and 7 (both must be stated for full marks for this question). 5 marks

4. Best measure = median. Significant outlier present in the dataset – mean score is higher than any other scores (apart from the score of 54) so the median score should be used. The mode cannot be used as the dataset is bimodal. 10 marks