

Revision

International Baccalaureate · IB Diploma · Psychology · HL

1 Explanations, studies and inference

- cognitive process
- confounding variable

U1-Q1

What can be concluded from the association alone?

Available marks: 2.

Worked answer

Longer sleep is associated with higher scores in this sample, without establishing causation.

U1-Q2

Explain the mechanism or reasoning in this original case: Students who sleep longer score higher on a memory task. Sleep may matter, but the observation alone does not identify the causal mechanism.

Available marks: 4.

Worked answer

An observational sleep-memory relation might also reflect stress, prior ability or study time. An ethically approved experiment can control some factors, but its task and sample still limit generalization.

- Accurate relevant concept (1)
- Specific evidence from the case (1)
- Connected reasoning (2)

Do not invent a published study or claim the original classroom scenario is one. / Add accurate aims, procedure, findings and evaluation for the teacher's selected studies before using them as examination evidence.

2 Culture, social learning and application

- social learning
- generalization

U2-Q1

Which detail most directly supports a social-learning explanation?

Available marks: 2.

Worked answer

The learner observes both a model's strategy and the praise that follows.

U2-Q2

Explain the mechanism or reasoning in this original case: A learner copies a peer who receives praise for a strategy. Observed consequences may affect imitation, but not every learner responds alike.

Available marks: 4.

Worked answer

In the original classroom case, identify the model, observed behaviour and praise before explaining possible imitation. To apply this to health or development, use an actual selected study and explain limits of transferring its evidence.

- Accurate relevant concept (1)
- Specific evidence from the case (1)
- Connected reasoning (2)

Do not treat national identity as a complete explanation of behaviour. / SL chooses one and HL two options from abnormal, developmental, health and human relationships; this example does not cover all options.

3 Ethical design, data and evaluation

- independent variable
- dependent variable

U3-Q1

Which variable is the dependent variable in this task?

Available marks: 2.

Worked answer

The measured recall score.

U3-Q2

Explain the mechanism or reasoning in this original case: You want to test whether a harmless change in word presentation affects recall. The procedure needs ethical approval before collecting data.

Available marks: 4.

Worked answer

Compare two approved presentation formats using a justified allocation method. Record recall consistently and retain anonymized raw data. Describe the design before selecting suitable descriptive and inferential analysis with the teacher.

- Accurate relevant concept (1)
- Specific evidence from the case (1)
- Connected reasoning (2)

Avoid deception, sensitive topics and unsupported statistical claims. The current IA is a real supervised experimental study. / For first assessment 2027 the IA becomes a research proposal: do not relabel this experiment as the new requirement.

4 Evaluating qualitative and quantitative research

- credibility
- transferability

U4-Q1

What is a useful evaluation of the interview study?

Available marks: 2.

Worked answer

Whether recruitment and analysis support its claims about the participants' experiences.

U4-Q2

Explain the mechanism or reasoning in this original case: An interview study gives detailed accounts from six volunteers. Small numbers do not alone make qualitative research worthless.

Available marks: 4.

Worked answer

An interview may reveal how people interpret an experience, but volunteer recruitment can shape whose perspectives appear. Compare themes with quoted evidence and reflect on the researcher's role, rather than judging credibility only by sample size.

- Accurate relevant concept (1)
- Specific evidence from the case (1)
- Connected reasoning (2)

The current HL methods paper differs from the 2027 source-based data paper. / Do not apply experimental cause-and-effect standards indiscriminately to an inquiry about lived meanings.