**What is the Question like?**

Assess the methodological issues of researching + the topic title:

Issues of Mental Health

1. Historical views about mental illness
2. Medical Model
3. Alternatives to the Medical Model

Child

1. Intelligence
2. Pre-adult brain development
3. Perceptual development
4. Cognitive development & education
5. Development of Attachment
6. Impact of advertising on children

Crime

1. What makes a criminal?
2. The collection and processing of forensic evidence
3. Collection of evidence from witnesses
4. Psychology and the courtroom
5. Crime prevention
6. Effect of imprisonment

**Your answer should be general not specific**

Think about HOW the topic in general has been researched, not just the Key Study.

**Choose the response which is not answering the question**

A methodological issue with researching pre-adult brain development is that the task used may often need to give children the chance to take risks, which may be an ethical issue of protection from harm. This was shown by B-L in the gambling task given to the children to evidence that their risk-taking was due to an over active ventral striatum and undeveloped prefrontal cortex.

A methodological issue with researching crime prevention is that Wilson and Kelling only used anecdotes to support their article into Broken Windows. As this is just using secondary data, they could not prove that the Broken Windows policy was the only cause of the reduced crime rate. Without knowing the cause definitely, their recommendations may not be trusted fully, which means their research lacks usefulness.

You can bring use studies from Paper 2, the background to the topic and the topic’s strategy, the key study and studies from other topics as EVIDENCE.

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| Issues of Mental Health | |
| Classification and diagnosis of mental illness | Freud, Baron Cohen |
| Medical Model: brain abnormality | Sperry, Casey |
| Alternatives to the Medical Model: Behaviourist | Bandura, Chaney |
| Child | |
| Intelligence | Gould |
| Pre-adult brain development | Casey |
| Perceptual development | Moray, Simons and Chabris |
| Cognitive development & education | Kohlberg, Lee |
| Impact of advertising on children | Bandura |
| Crime | |
| What makes a criminal? | Sperry, Casey |
| Collection of evidence from witnesses | Loftus |
| Psychology and the courtroom | Hancock |
| Crime prevention | Levine |
| Effect of imprisonment | Milgram, Bocchiaro |

**Methodological issues =** This means issues with HOW the topic area is researched.

Examples include:

* Research method (correlations, observations, self-reports, experiments). What are the strengths and weaknesses of the method used for the key study / topic area?
* Procedures / Tasks / Equipment used (tasks which require deceit, do not protect a person from harm)
* Research length (snapshot, longitudinal). What are the strengths and weaknesses of the length of time over which the key study was done?
* Experimental design (repeated, independent, matched pairs). What are the strengths and weaknesses of the experimental design used for the key study / topic area?
* Collection of data (quantitative / qualitative / what measures were used). What type of data is gathered and what are the strengths and weaknesses of this?
* Sampling method (random, opportunity, self-selecting, snowball). What are the strengths and weaknesses of the sampling method used for the key study / topic area?
* Sample size and features (nomothetic, idiographic, androcentric, ethnocentric). Can the results be generalised effectively?
* Reliability (consistency, use of controls and standardised procedures, replicability). Can the research be carried out again in a consistent way? What controls were used?
* Validity (internal – face / construct / content / concurrent; external – population / ecological / criterion / temporal). Does the study or measurements meet the aims or objectives of the study? Are there any extraneous variables that affect results? Can the behaviours displayed within the study be generalised to the target population? Criterion validity – is the key study / area able to predict future behaviour truthfully?
* Ethics

Social Sensitivity is NOT a methodological issue

General Research Methods: Child

* Intelligence = Self-reports, family (case) studies, correlations
* Pre-adult brain development = Brain scans, post-mortems
* Perceptual development = lab experiments, animal studies
* Cognitive development & education = lab experiments / controlled observations
* Development of Attachment = lab experiments / controlled observations, correlations
* Impact of advertising on children = content analyses, case studies

General Research Methods: Crime

* What makes a criminal? = Family and case studies, correlations, brain scans
* Collection and processing of forensic evidence = lab experiments, self-reports (for showing the motivational factors)
* Collection of evidence = Lab experiments, self-reports
* Courtroom = Lab experiments (not legally allowed to ask jury, so natural experiments and self-reports cannot be done)
* Crime prevention = correlations, anecdotal self-reports
* Effect of imprisonment = correlations on real prisoners, lab experiments