Methodological Issues: Essay Plans

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Issue #1 | Issue #2 | Issue #3 |
| Medical Model | Correlations don’t show cause and effect | Brain scans cannot be faked but the anxiety may affect the results | Aetiological fallacy if just studying how the treatment works |
| Alternatives to the Medical Model | Studying the treatments have the ‘hello-goodbye effect | Psychoanalysis and the psychodynamic explanations lack empirical evidence | Behaviourist treatments like flooding have ethical concerns |
| Intelligence  | Correlations and case studies cannot separate nature and nurture  | IQ tests are self-reports – demand characteristics | Self-reports allow you to identify WHY as well as WHAT |
| Pre-adult brain development  | Brain scans cannot be faked but the anxiety may affect the results | Post-mortems cannot show cause and effect, just the effects | Longitudinal studies can show before and after, but not what exactly causes change |
| Perceptual development  | Animal experiments may not be generalizable to humans | Lab experiments allow cause and effect to be determined | Lab experiments may have tasks which lack mundane realism |
| Cognitive development & education  | Lab experiments allow cause and effect to be determined | Lab experiments may have tasks which lack mundane realism | Ethnocentric as how education is done is culture specific |
| Development of Attachment  | Lab experiments allow cause and effect to be determined | Lab experiments may have tasks which lack mundane realism | Ethnocentric as the Strange Situation is culture specific |
| Impact of advertising on children  | Ethnocentric  | Correlations don’t show cause and effect | Case Studies can be idiographic |
| What makes a criminal?  | Correlations don’t show cause and effect | Brain scans cannot be faked but the anxiety may affect the results | Volunteer samples may be biased |
| Collection and processing of forensic evidence  | Lab experiments allow cause and effect to be determined | Lab experiments may have tasks which lack mundane realism | Self-reports allow you to identify WHY as well as WHAT |
| Collection of evidence  | Lab experiments allow cause and effect to be determined | Lab experiments may have tasks which lack mundane realism | Ethnocentric |
| Courtroom  | Lab experiments allow cause and effect to be determined | Lab experiments may have tasks which lack mundane realism | Samples are usually Psychology / Law students |
| Crime prevention  | Ethnocentric  | Correlations don’t show cause and effect | Case Studies can be idiographic |
| Effect of imprisonment  | Ethnocentric  | Correlations don’t show cause and effect | Case Studies can be idiographic |