Discuss the extent to which research into intelligence can be considered reliable (15).

**Introduction**

Reliability means \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Internal reliability is measured through split half reliability, which is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

External reliability can measured through test retest reliability, which means \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and also if the sample is large enough to be similar to the target population.

**Para 1: Internal Reliability**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Point | IQ tests may lack internal (split half) reliability.  |
| Explanation | Split half reliability means  |
| Example | Yerkes’ IQ tests showed very poor split half reliability because the 3 types of tests (alpha, beta and interview) along with a wide different types of questions, showed no internal consistency. One part was not consistent with another.  |
| Conclusion | This is problematic as it suggests that these tests were not reliable indicators of intelligence.  |
| Challenge | However more recent IQ tests and research into intelligence shows greater internal reliability, such as Raven’s Matrices. Yerkes’ intelligence tests crystallised (knowledge and language) intelligence whereas more recent tests assess fluid (problem solving) intelligence. |

**Para 2: External Reliability: Test Retest**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Point | Research into intelligence is reliable as it shows good test re-test reliability.  |
| Explanation | Test re-test reliability means  |
| Example | The IQ tests used by Van Leeuwen et al. had test-retest reliability of 0.88 for the child’s version and 0.91 for the adult version.  |
| Conclusion | Having high levels of test retest reliability is important as it means that if the test was taken again a similar score would be achieved.  |
| Challenge | However it can be argued that being consistent over time is pointless if the way intelligence is being measured lacks validity.  |

**Para 3: External Reliability: Consistency across people**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Point | The methodology of research into intelligence can bring up issues of reliability through the small sample sizes used and the need for the research to be repeated. |
| Explanation | External reliability can be limited by small sample sizes as there will be little confidence that the research can be applied to all people. |
| Example | In Van Leeuwen …. |
| Conclusion | Reliability is lowered by this methodological issue which is a problem because scientific research requires the highest standard of reliability.  |