Methodological Issues: Essay Plans

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|  | 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 |