

Research Summary Sheet

Your task is to summarise and evaluate each piece of research (cognitive dissonance, gender, jury decision making, helping behaviour). You will be asked to present some of your work to the class in the first lesson. You need to complete one of these summary sheets for each research area.



Summarising:

Your first task is to present the area of research to the class. You need to:

1. Outline the theory or background to the study
2. Outline the study

You need to summarise the theory and study, in your own words. You must not simply read out the material on the sheet. It may be useful to bullet point the key points of the theory and study.

Summary of theory:

Summary of study:

Drawing conclusions

Explain the findings of the study using the theory – showing *how* the findings support the theory

Evaluation

You need to assess the internal validity, external validity and ethical issues raised by the study.

Internal validity:

- Consider the way that the variables have been measured. Are they good/valid measures of the factor the study is attempting to test?

- Consider possible confounding variables. Can you think of any other variables that might have affected the findings of the study?
- If you think the study is valid, explain why it is a good study (controls used, measurement and manipulation of variables)
- Can you think of any ways the study could be improved?

External validity:

- Can the findings be applied to situations outside of the study? Can you think of any real-life behaviours or situations that the findings are relevant to or help to explain?
- Can you think of any reasons why we should be cautious about generalising to other situations? What is it about the study that makes it too different from other situations to assume that similar processes will be going on?

Ethical issues:

- Do you think the study was ethical?
- Consider whether the participants might have suffered any psychological harm by taking part in the study?
- Consider whether any deception as used and whether such deception is justified.

Your own examples

Try to think of at least one other behaviour that could be explained using the theory.