

1. When your best friend hears that you are taking a psychology course, she asserts that psychology is simply common sense. Explain why your awareness of both the limits of everyday reasoning and the methods of psychological research would lead you to disagree with your friend's assertion.
2. Explain how research in psychological science is used to create, test, and verify or disprove various theories.
3. The table below lists the scores of eight students on a test to measure anxiety, as well as the typical number of cigarettes each person smokes daily. Scores on the anxiety test can range anywhere from a low of 0 (indicating very low anxiety) to a high of 30 (indicating very high anxiety).

Student	Anxiety Test Score	Cigarettes Smoked Daily
1	8	11
2	9	3
3	15	11
4	14	16
5	21	26
6	12	10
7	22	24
8	17	18

Construct a scatterplot to represent the correlation between smoking and anxiety. Describe the direction of the correlation and give two possible explanations for it.

4. Design an experiment to test whether playing violent video games influences childhood aggression. Be sure to specify your experimental hypothesis and identify your dependent and independent variables, as well as your experimental and control conditions. Identify any experimental procedures that would help to ensure the reliability of your research.
5. Dr. Schmidt would like to investigate the effectiveness of a newly invented drug to treat clinical depression. Specifically, he would like to determine if it is more effective than current medications for this disorder. With this in mind, design an experiment using the double-blind procedure and explain how the placebo effect could impact the results of this study. Be sure to identify your dependent and independent variables, as well as any confounding variables. Also, specify your experimental and control conditions. Identify any experimental procedures that would help to ensure the reliability of your research.

6. To investigate the impact of alcohol consumption on sexual arousal, researchers plan to give experimental participants either an alcoholic or a nonalcoholic drink just prior to their watching a sexually arousing movie. Describe the appropriate ethical guidelines that the researchers would need to meet in order to conduct this study.

Answer Key

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.