

Psychological Tests

3 defining characteristics: 1. sample behaviour 2. sample is obtained under standardized conditions. 3. established rules for coring or for obtaining quantitative information from the behaviour sample

Levels of Measurement

nominal = categorical variables; assigned items to a particular category and not organized in rank

ordinal = assigning scores to rank items

interval = dscores represent the precise magnitude of the difference between individuals.

ratio = rank order items along a continuum

Levels

Table 5.1 Summary of Levels of Measurements

Level of Measurement	Category labels	Rank order	Equal intervals	True zero
NOMINAL	X			
ORDINAL	X	X		
INTERVAL	X	X	X	
RATIO	X	X	X	X

Reliability and Validity (cont)

types:

1. face - measurement appears "on the surface"

2. content - degree to which a measurement is comprehensive in measuring the construct of interest

3. criterion - extent to which a measurement is correlated with other variables of the construct of interest

Psychological contrasts

tendencies on how people think, feel, and behave across a variety of situations

2 properties: 1. abstract summaries of a natural phenomenon 2. related to observable entities.

examples: neuroticism (construct) - related to negative

emotions

developing a definition of a construct: proposing definitions, empirically testing them, revising them

threats

demand characteristics - researchers provided subtle cues that reveal how a participant should act

socially desirable responding - participants respond or behave on ways to be viewed favourably

Experiment

used to determine whether there us a causal relationship between variables that is supported by statistical analysis

2 features: 1. manipulation of an independent variable - different levels are known as conditions 2. minimize variability in other variables (3rd variables)

4 Validities in Research

help determine if an experiment is sound

1. internal - extent to whihc we can attribute the cause of an outcome to its effect (bystander effect)

2. external - extent to whihc the results of a study can generalize to other people (mundane realism and psychological realism)

3. construct - extent to whihc an experiment examines the concept of interest

4. statistical - extent to ehihc the analysis supports the conclusions (effect size, power)

Reliability and Validity

consistency of a measure

3 types of reliability

1. test-retest - scores are similar upon retaking of test

2. internal consistency - measurement of a construct tis similar across multiple items of measurement

3. inter-rater - different observers are consistent in their judgements

Validity - extent to whihc scores of a measruemnt represent the construct that it intends to measure

Operational Definition

specifications on how a construct is to be measured

3 categories:

1. self report

2. behavioural

3. physiological

converging operations: different and closely related operational definitions produce a similar pattern of results (stress)

