

The Scientific Method & Studies in Psychology

Psychology uses the scientific method to study human thought and behaviour. Although you don't often see psychologists wearing lab coats and using test tubes (although it has been known!). So how does the scientific method apply to psychology? It is through the process of developing theories that explain thoughts and behaviours, testing them through research, evaluating that research and then changing your theory if necessary. This process is sometimes called the "hypothetico deductive method"

Study	What did the researcher do (method)	What did the researcher find out? (results)	Challenge: Evaluation • Were the participants harmed physically or psychologically by the research? How? • To what extent do the people/subjects involved in the research represent people in society? Why is this good / bad? • Is the study similar to real life? Why might this be good / bad when trying to investigate behaviour?
Little Albert (Watson & Rayner) - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9hBfnXACsOI			
Replication of Milgram's electric shock study - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y6GxluljT3w	Note: Derren Brown is a TV star, NOT a qualified researcher however he follows a similar method to the original scientist - Milgram.		

Example Exam Questions (for reference, you do not need to complete these)

1. Outline the procedure of Watson & Rayner's study (4)
2. Outline the results of Watson & Rayner's study (4)
3. Evaluate Milgram's original experiment (8)