

Independent and Dependent Variables

1. Will students do better in school if you “pay for grades”? To test this question, an instructor gives students a math test. Before taking the test, half the students were told that they would receive \$0.25 for every correct answer. The other half was not given a monetary incentive. The number of correct answers was recorded for each student.

IV =

Levels of IV =

DV =

2. A social psychologist thinks that people are more likely to conform to a large crowd than to a single person. To test this hypothesis, the psychologist had either one person or five people stand on a busy walking path on campus and look up. (note: people who are in cahoots with the experimenter are called confederates). The psychologist stood nearby and counted the number of people passing by who looked up and the number who did not look up.

IV =

Levels of IV =

DV =

3. To test a new voice feature in a cockpit design a flight simulator was used. The simulator was programmed to give visual readings of flight information, or to give visual and auditory (voice) readings of flight information. All test pilots were put through a simulated emergency landing procedure, but were randomly assigned to the visual, or visual and auditory conditions. Flight experts rated each pilot's performance in the simulator on a scale of 1 (very poor) to 10 (excellent).

IV =

Levels of IV =

DV =

4. A researcher was interested in the effects of reward on intrinsic motivation. Some children were told that they would be given a special award for drawing with magic markers (an activity they already enjoyed). Other children were simply asked to draw with the magic markers. One week later, the children were unobtrusively observed for how much time they spent drawing with the markers. The children who expected and received a reward for drawing with the markers spent less time drawing with them later.

IV =
Levels of IV =
DV =

5. A researcher suspects that a newly discovered brain structure (the snookum) plays an important role in the desire to show affection. To test this, he administered a drug which inhibits the snookum. He tested 3 groups of people who received either: 0 mg, 5 mg, or 10 mg of the drug. He predicted that the more the snookum was inhibited, the less affection people would show (number of hugs and kisses to a cute, cuddly puppy).

IV =
Levels of IV =
DV =

6. A researcher suspects that the amount of oxygen in the air affects how quickly yeast will grow. To test this, he varies the amount of oxygen present in 3 closed chambers (low O₂, medium O₂, high O₂) and records the rate of yeast growth (density per square mm) in each chamber.

IV =
Levels of IV =
DV =

7. A soap manufacturer wants to show that their detergent (Suddsy-Clean) works better to remove tough stains compared to the leading brand (Tidey-Clean). To test this, 20 white t-shirts were purchased. On each t-shirt, 10 different types of stains were placed. Half the t-shirts were then washed with Suddsy-Clean, and the other half were washed with Tidey-Clean. Afterwards, the number of stains left on each t-shirt was recorded.

IV =
Levels of IV =
DV =