## **PET - LABORATORY EXPERIMENTS**

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| **Define the** **method** | **Experiment used to test a hypothesis in laboratory conditions in which all variables are under control of the researcher.**  |
| **Example(s)** | **The Stanford Prison ExperimentStanley Milgram** |
| **Circle correct** | * **Quantitative**
 | **Qualitative** | * **Positivist**
 | **Realist** | **Interpretivist** |
|  | **Strengths**  | **Weaknesses**  |
| **Practical** | * Reliable, other scientists can replicate it.
* Very detached method
* Used to identify cause and effect relationships
* Enable scientists to test their hypotheses in controlled conditions.
* Enable comparisons to be made with other similar experimental research.
 | * Expensive
* Requires lots of training
* Cannot be used to study the past
* Usually only investigate small samples
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| **Ethical** | * Evidence of free will in some experiments
* Confidentiality of participants
 | * May be difficult to obtain informed consent.
* Often deception is used
* May also harm participants, ‘full-blown, uncontrollable seizures were observed by three subjects’ – Stanley Milgram.
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| **Theoretical** | * Quantifiable data, suited for positivists.
* Reliable- conditions and the measure can be conducted again.
 | * Hawthorne effect – sociologists want to study people in their normal social context, but the lab and experimental conditions are artificial situations. Hawthorne effect is present as behaviour may not be the same as a normal day to day social situation. Lacks validity.
* Not representable as small sample, lack of validity.
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