

Flying Start 2

Validity

Validity is the issue of whether a psychological investigation matches up with reality. Did the procedure of the investigation allow the aim of the investigation to be achieved? If the investigation claims to tell us something generalised about behaviour above and beyond what the participants did, can this claim be justified? If psychology is to have any claim to tell us about ourselves and the world with greater certainty than opinion, common sense or guesswork then it must be able to show that its research is valid enough for its conclusions to be accepted. The OCR specification lists eight different types of validity which are highlighted below. Look up each type and give an example in the table below.

Validity type and description	Example/comment
Internal validity	
Face validity.	
Construct validity.	
Concurrent validity	

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Criterion validity Concurrent validity	
External validity	
Ecological validity	
Population validity	