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RESEARCH METHODS AND STATISTICS

Tony Malim and Ann Birch

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Preface

Research Methods and Statistics is the final volume in the Introductory Psychology series, and its aims are similar to those of the other volumes in the series. Chapters 1 and 2 provide an introduction and an overview of some of the methods used in psychological research, highlighting the advantages and limitations of each. From Chapter 3 onwards, it becomes very much a workbook. Chapter 3 deals with the use of statistics in psychology to describe and to make inferences about data obtained through observations, and Chapter 4 is devoted to statistical testing. In Chapter 5, attention is paid to the way in which the results of research are interpreted and presented. Finally, in Chapter 6, several possible projects are outlined. Appendices include some very basic mathematical rules for those who are less familiar with the use of figures, guidance in making some do-it-yourself equipment which the authors have found useful, and some statistical tables for use in conjunction with the statistical procedures in Chapter 4.

The intention is that the book will provide practical help with the course work element of 'A' and 'AS' level syllabuses and the Research Methods modules. As in the other books in the series, each chapter begins with some objectives to be met, and at the end of each section there are self-assessment questions to help independent students test their understanding of the section. Readers are advised to work carefully through the text one section at a time before considering the self-assessment questions

at the end of it. After further reading or study, the questions may be re-examined.

The book focuses primarily upon GCE 'A' and 'AS' levels and GCSE. However, it should prove useful to any one encountering psychology for the first time or indeed any students who need to use research methods and statistics. This might include perhaps biologists and students in other related disciplines. Students on university courses may find the contents valuable, as may those on BTEC/GNVQ courses, nurses, midwives and teachers. The authors hope that you will find the book both useful and enjoyable.

Tony Malim
Ann Birch

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Personally, I'd be happy with a one-tailed hypothesis !