

Fixed Interval Sampling

The Fixed Interval Sampling (FIS) is a type of observation schedule which can be used by anyone after a brief amount of instruction. It sorts off-task behaviour into a series of categories which are assigned a particular code. The observer notes the predominant behaviour of the pupil for each 15 second interval of a total period of time which could extend up to twenty or thirty minutes, depending on the activity. In practice, this is usually done by observing for 10 seconds and recording for 5.

At the end of the observation it is possible to calculate the different proportions of each category of behaviour noted during the total period of observation. By also writing, for instance, a T in a cell when the teacher and pupil are interacting it is also possible to record the amount of personal attention the pupil receives. If another symbol is also used, eg a P, it is also possible to record whether the interactions are pupil or teacher initiated. Similarly, using appropriate symbols, the balance of positive and negative, task-based and off-task interactions can be recorded if deemed useful.

FIXED INTERVAL SAMPLING																	Date 3.10.95																										
Pupil <i>Stefa</i>			Class <i>Middle</i>			No in class <i>32</i>			Observer <i>DC</i>																																		
Activity <i>Mams</i>			Class Behaviour Rating -2 -1 0 (+1) +2			Setting <i>Small group activities</i>																																					
00	15	30	45	00	15	30	45	00	15	30	45	00	15	30	45	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)																				
																	On Task	Talking	Looking	Physical	Movement	Fidgeting	Noise	Other																			
<i>11.10</i>																	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>4</i>			<i>1</i>		<i>7</i>
<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>		<i>7</i>			<i>5</i>																
<i>5</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>7</i>		<i>1</i>	<i>4</i>																			
<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>5</i>		<i>4</i>	<i>2</i>		<i>3</i>																
																	<i>33</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>22</i>		<i>12</i>	<i>9</i>																					
																	<i>80</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>80</i>		<i>80</i>	<i>80</i>																					
																	<i>Approx</i>	<i>40% ON TASK.</i>																									
																		<i>12% Talking</i>																									
																		<i>26% Looking</i>																									
																		<i>12% Movement (Wandering around).</i>																									

The Fixed Interval Sampling Sheet