**One method of psychological investigations is the use of laboratory studies. Choose one study from the following and discuss two advantages and two disadvantages of laboratory studies.**

**Schacter and Singer (two-factor theory of emotion)**

**Dement and Kleitman (Rem and dreaming)**

**Dematte, et al (olfactory cues and facial attractiveness)**

**Laboratory studies, also commonly called experiments are usually high in reliability because the procedures can be replicated.  Because there is high control of variables it is easier to establish a cause and effect relationship between the independent variable (controlled by the experimenter) and the dependent variable which is being measured.   In the Schacter and Singer study, for example, the injection of epinephrine was exactly the same amount for each subject.  Having completed a health screening beforehand, the experimenters could monitor the physiological effects of the drug.  The behavior of the stooge in both the euphoric situation and the anger situation was controlled in that they behaved the same way in each trial. It is likely that the self-report questionnaire filled out by the subjects reflected a combination of cognitive factors and physiological factors as  Schacter and Singer predicted.**

**On the other hand, there are weaknesses in laboratory studies, the main one being lack of ecological validity.  In the real world, emotions are not usually triggered by an arbitrary injection of some kind and then influenced by a trained actor as they were in the Schacter and Singer study. Observation through a one-way mirror is also not done in real life.  Laboratory studies also often require deception so that the subjects don’t yield to demand characteristics.  This violates the code of ethics from the American Psychological Association.  The subjects in the Schacter and Singer study thought they were injected with a vitamin called suproxin and that they were being tested for vision.**

**Sample mark scheme:**

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| **Comment** | **mark** |
| **No answer or incorrect answer** | **0** |
| **Anecdotal evaluation, brief detail, minimal focus. Very limited range. Evaluation may be inaccurate, incomplete or muddled.** | **1-3** |
| **Either points limited to illustrating either only strengths or only the weaknesses, or both are covered but only briefly. The answer is general rather than focused on study but shows some understanding.** | **4-5** |
| **Both the strengths and the weaknesses are focused on the study although they may be imbalanced in terms of quality and/or quantity. The answer shows good evaluation with reasonable understanding.** | **6-7** |
| **Balance of detail about the strength and the weakness and both are focused on the study. Evaluation is detailed with good understanding and clear expression.** | **8-10** |