
A-level PSYCHOLOGY

Paper 3 Issues and options in psychology

Thursday 14 June 2018

Morning

Time allowed: 2 hours

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

You may use a calculator.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 7182/3.
- In **Section A**, you should answer **all** questions.
- In **Section B**, choose **one** topic. Answer **all** questions on the topic you choose.
- In **Section C**, choose **one** topic. Answer **all** questions on the topic you choose.
- In **Section D**, choose **one** topic. Answer **all** questions on the topic you choose.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 96.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Section A

Issues and debates in Psychology

Answer **all** questions in this section.

0 1 Cultural relativism, ethnocentrism, holism and universality are four concepts relevant to issues and debates in psychology.

Table 1

Definition
A Appreciating that behaviour varies between cultures
B Believing that some behaviours are the same for all cultures
C Considering all aspects of experience, including culture
D Emphasising the importance of the behaviour of one's own culture
E Understanding that whole cultures have the same experience

Look at **Table 1** above.

- Which definition (**A-E**) best describes cultural relativism?
- Which definition (**A-E**) best describes ethnocentrism?
- Which definition (**A-E**) best describes holism?
- Which definition (**A-E**) best describes universality?

In your answer book, list the four concepts and write the appropriate letter (A-E) next to each one. A letter may only be used once.

[4 marks]

0 2 What is a 'nomothetic approach'? Suggest **one** limitation of a nomothetic approach.

[2 marks]

A psychology student carried out a study of excitement at a theme park. She measured the heart rate of people waiting in the queue for a roller coaster.

The student's tutor said, 'Using heart rate as a measure of excitement is an example of biological reductionism.'

0 3 Explain why measuring heart rate in this situation could be an example of biological reductionism.

[2 marks]

0	4
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Outline **two** non-biological ways of measuring excitement that the student could also use in this situation.

[4 marks]

0	5
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Explain **one** strength and **one** limitation of a reductionist approach in psychology.

[4 marks]

0	6
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Discuss **one or more** ethical implications of research in psychology.

Refer to **at least one** topic you have studied in psychology in your answer.

[8 marks]

Turn over for Section B

Section B

Relationships or Gender or Cognition and development

Choose **one** topic from **Section B**. Answer **all** questions on the topic you choose.

Topic: Relationships

0 7 Briefly outline what is meant by 'equity' in relation to theories of romantic relationships.
[2 marks]

0 8 Outline an evolutionary explanation for partner preferences. Explain **one** limitation of an evolutionary explanation for partner preferences.
[6 marks]

Researchers wished to study the link between attachment and parasocial relationships. They surveyed a stratified sample of 100 18-year-old students from four different schools. Some schools had a large number of students and others had a smaller number of students. The students were asked questions about their childhood, their feelings towards celebrities and about their friendships at school.

0 9 Explain how the researchers could have obtained a stratified sample from the four different schools.
[4 marks]

At the end of the survey, researchers wished to treat the students ethically. They used the following statement in their debriefing:

'Thank you for taking part in the survey. Your data will be very useful. Have you any questions?'

1 0 Suggest **two** additional points that could be added to the debriefing statement to better ensure ethical treatment of the students.
[4 marks]

1 1 Discuss the attachment theory explanation for parasocial relationships. Refer to the likely findings of the study above in your answer.
[8 marks]

Topic: Gender

1 2 Briefly outline what is meant by 'gender schema'.

[2 marks]

1 3 Outline social learning theory as an explanation for gender development. Explain **one** strength of social learning theory as an explanation for gender development.

[6 marks]

Researchers wished to study the link between androgyny and psychological health. They surveyed a stratified sample of 100 18-year-old students from four different schools. Some schools had a large number of students and others had a smaller number of students. The students were asked to rate themselves on an androgyny scale and then answered a series of questions. The questions focused on students' self-esteem and how they felt about their relationships with others.

1 4 Explain how the researchers could have obtained a stratified sample from the four different schools.

[4 marks]

At the end of the survey, the researchers wished to treat the students ethically. They used the following statement in their debriefing:

'Thank you for taking part in the survey. Your data will be very useful. Have you any questions?'

1 5 Suggest **two** additional points that could be added to the debriefing statement to better ensure ethical treatment of the students.

[4 marks]

1 6 Discuss Bem's research into androgyny. Refer to the likely findings of the study above in your answer.

[8 marks]

Section B continues on the next page

Turn over ►

Topic: Cognition and development

1 7 Briefly outline what Piaget meant by 'class inclusion'. **[2 marks]**

1 8 Outline theory of mind as an explanation for autism. Explain **one** strength of theory of mind as an explanation for autism. **[6 marks]**

Researchers wished to study the effects of scaffolding on learning. They surveyed a stratified sample of 100 18-year-old students from four different schools. Some schools had a large number of students and others had a smaller number of students. The students were asked questions about how they learn, different teaching and classroom activities, and what helps them learn.

1 9 Explain how the researchers could have obtained a stratified sample from the four different schools. **[4 marks]**

At the end of the survey, the researchers wished to treat the students ethically. They used the following statement in their debriefing:

'Thank you for taking part in the survey. Your data will be very useful. Have you any questions?'

2 0 Suggest **two** additional points that could be added to the debriefing statement to better ensure ethical treatment of the students. **[4 marks]**

2 1 Discuss Vygotsky's theory of cognitive development. Refer to the likely findings of the study above in your answer. **[8 marks]**

Section C

Schizophrenia or Eating behaviour or Stress

Choose **one** topic from **Section C**. Answer **all** questions on the topic you choose.

Topic: Schizophrenia

2 | 2 In the context of schizophrenia, outline what is meant by co-morbidity.

[2 marks]

2 | 3 Explain how symptom overlap might lead to problems with the diagnosis **and/or** classification of schizophrenia.

[2 marks]

A psychologist investigated cognitive processing in two groups of people with schizophrenia. People in **Group A** showed positive symptoms of schizophrenia and people in **Group B** showed negative symptoms of schizophrenia. Each person completed a cognitive task and was given an overall score. The psychologist then calculated average scores for each group. The results are shown in **Table 2** below.

Table 2

Measure of central tendency	Group A scores	Group B scores
Mean	22.4	26
Median	22.5	22.5
Mode	22	16

2 | 4 Using the data in **Table 2**, explain how the distribution of scores in **Group A** differs from the distribution of scores in **Group B**.

[4 marks]

2 | 5 Discuss **one or more** biological explanations for schizophrenia.

[16 marks]

Section C continues on the next page

Turn over ►

Topic: Eating behaviour

2 | 6 Briefly outline **one** psychological explanation for obesity. **[2 marks]**

2 | 7 Outline **one** strength of the explanation you have given in your answer to **Question 26**. **[2 marks]**

A psychologist investigated perception of foods in two groups of people. People in **Group A** were on a calorie-counting diet and people in **Group B** were on a low-fat diet. Each person completed a perception task and was given an overall score. The psychologist then calculated average scores for each group. The results are shown in **Table 3** below.

Table 3

Measure of central tendency	Group A scores	Group B scores
Mean	22.4	26
Median	22.5	22.5
Mode	22	16

2 | 8 Using the data in **Table 3**, explain how the distribution of scores in **Group A** differs from the distribution of scores in **Group B**. **[4 marks]**

2 | 9 Discuss **one or more** biological explanations for anorexia nervosa. **[16 marks]**

Topic: Stress

3 | 0 Briefly outline **one** therapy used to manage stress. **[2 marks]**

3 | 1 Outline **one** limitation of the therapy in your answer to **Question 30**. **[2 marks]**

A psychologist investigated workplace stress in two groups of people. People in **Group A** were employed by a company and people in **Group B** were self-employed. Each person completed a stress test and was given an overall score. The psychologist then calculated average scores for each group. The results are shown in **Table 4** below.

Table 4

Measure of central tendency	Group A scores	Group B scores
Mean	22.4	26
Median	22.5	22.5
Mode	22	16

3 | 2 Using the data in **Table 4**, explain how the distribution of scores in **Group A** differs from the distribution of scores in **Group B**. **[4 marks]**

3 | 3 Discuss the role of stress in illness. **[16 marks]**

Turn over for Section D

Turn over ►

Section D

Aggression or Forensic psychology or Addiction

Choose **one** topic from **Section D**. Answer **all** questions on the topic you choose.

Topic: Aggression

3 **4**

Which **two** of the following statements are **TRUE**? Write the **two** correct letters in your answer book.

[2 marks]

- A** Aggression involves high MAOA gene activity
- B** Aggression is influenced by the amygdala
- C** The amygdala is located in the prefrontal cortex
- D** The MAOA gene affects levels of testosterone
- E** The MAOA gene influences levels of serotonin

3 **5**

Some people suggest that the media influences aggression through desensitisation. Evaluate desensitisation as an explanation for aggression.

[6 marks]

John was arrested for fighting with supporters of a rival team after a football match. He explained to the police officer why he was aggressive. The police officer noted John's comments in her notebook. **Table 5** below shows some of John's comments.

Table 5

The players were fighting on the pitch
 Our team lost again – it's not fair
 Supporters of the other team ganged up on us
 I was with my mates – we were all punching at once
 Everyone else was fighting, so I just joined in

3 **6**

Discuss **one or more** social psychological explanations for aggression. Refer to some of the comments in **Table 5** in your answer.

[16 marks]

Topic: Forensic psychology**3 7**

Which **two** of the following statements about Eysenck's theory of the criminal personality are **TRUE**? Write the **two** correct letters in your answer book.

[2 marks]

- A** The criminal personality avoids sensation-seeking situations
- B** The criminal personality cannot be conditioned easily
- C** The criminal personality has a high level of introversion
- D** The criminal personality has an over-aroused nervous system
- E** The criminal personality scores highly on neuroticism

3 8

Evaluate the atavistic form explanation for offending.

[6 marks]

A group of probation and prison officers attended a training session on how to deal with offenders. They each offered suggestions and the group leader wrote some of the suggestions on a flip chart. **Table 6** below shows some of the suggestions.

Table 6

Get him to talk about what makes him angry Make him do something to help the victim Give him points for TV time when he behaves well Teach him how to calm himself down Teach him the link between behaviour and consequences

3 9

Discuss **one or more** ways of dealing with offending behaviour. Refer to some of the suggestions in **Table 6** in your answer.

[16 marks]

Section D continues on the next page

Turn over ►

Topic: Addiction**4 | 0**

Which **two** of the following statements best describe the effects of tolerance? Write the **two** correct letters in your answer book.

[2 marks]

- A** Tolerance arises when you have taken the drug for some time
- B** Tolerance decreases the desire for the drug
- C** Tolerance is when you feel bad effects if you stop taking the drug
- D** Tolerance means that more of the drug is needed to have an effect
- E** Tolerance means that you need the drug in order to feel normal

4 | 1

Evaluate Prochaska's model of behaviour change.

[6 marks]

A team of health workers attended a meeting about how to help a client who wants to give up smoking. They each offered suggestions and the team leader wrote some of the suggestions on a flip chart. **Table 7** below shows some of the suggestions.

Table 7

- Describe all the horrid things smoking is doing to her body
- Remind her to keep using the patches
- Make her smoke until she is feeling sick
- Teach her how to say 'No' when someone offers her a cigarette
- Tell her to take the pills so she won't want a cigarette

4 | 2

Discuss **one or more** ways of reducing addiction. Refer to some of the suggestions in **Table 7** in your answer.

[16 marks]**END OF QUESTIONS****Copyright information**

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