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# A-level PSYCHOLOGY

## Paper 3 Issues and options in psychology

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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.

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**Section A****Issues and debates in Psychology**

Answer **all** questions in this section.

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**0****1**

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

**Table 1**

| Definition                                                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>A</b> Appreciating that behaviour varies between cultures              |
| <b>B</b> Believing that some behaviours are the same for all cultures     |
| <b>C</b> Considering all aspects of experience, including culture         |
| <b>D</b> Emphasising the importance of the behaviour of one's own culture |
| <b>E</b> 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 |
|---|---|

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

[4 marks]

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 0 | 5 |
|---|---|

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

[4 marks]

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 0 | 6 |
|---|---|

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

Turn over ►

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**Section B****Relationships or Gender or Cognition and development**

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

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**Topic: Relationships**

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|   |   |
|---|---|
| 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]**

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**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 ►**

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**Topic: Cognition and development**

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|   |   |
|---|---|
| 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**

26

Briefly outline **one** psychological explanation for obesity.

[2 marks]

27

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             |

28

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]

29

Discuss **one or more** biological explanations for anorexia nervosa.

[16 marks]

Topic: Stress

30

Briefly outline **one** therapy used to manage stress.

[2 marks]

31

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             |

32

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]

33

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<br>Our team lost again – it's not fair<br>Supporters of the other team ganged up on us<br>I was with my mates – we were all punching at once<br>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**

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