



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Level Examination
January 2013

Psychology (Specification A) PSYA4

Unit 4 Psychopathology, Psychology in Action and Research Methods

Thursday 24 January 2013 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

Time allowed

- 2 hours

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Examining Body** for this paper is AQA. The **Paper Reference** is PSYA4.
- In **Section A**, choose **one** topic. Answer **all** questions on the topic you choose. Where appropriate, refer to theories and/or studies.
- In **Section B**, choose **one** topic. Answer **all** questions on the topic you choose. Where appropriate, refer to theories and/or studies.
- In **Section C**, you should answer **all** questions.
- 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 83.
- In **Section A** and in **Section B**, you will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Section A Psychopathology

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

Each topic carries 24 marks.

Where appropriate, refer to theories and/or studies.

Topic: Schizophrenia

- 0 | 1** Outline **and** evaluate **one** biological therapy for schizophrenia. (4 marks + 8 marks)
- 0 | 2** Outline **and** evaluate **one** psychological therapy for schizophrenia. (4 marks + 8 marks)
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Topic: Depression

- 0 | 3** Discuss issues related to the classification **and/or** diagnosis of depression. (8 marks + 16 marks)
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Topic: Phobic Disorders

- 0 | 4** 'Biological therapies are useful for the short-term treatment of phobic disorders, but psychological therapies are more effective in the long-term.'
- Outline **one** biological **and one** psychological therapy for phobic disorders. Evaluate these therapies in terms of their effectiveness. (8 marks + 16 marks)
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Topic: Obsessive Compulsive Disorder

- 0 | 5** Outline the clinical characteristics of obsessive compulsive disorder. (4 marks)
- 0 | 6** Outline **one** psychological therapy for obsessive compulsive disorder. (4 marks)
- 0 | 7** Evaluate psychological therapies for obsessive compulsive disorder. (16 marks)

Section B Psychology in Action

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

Each topic carries 24 marks.

Where appropriate, refer to theories and/or studies.

Topic: Media Psychology

- 0 8** Discuss **one or more** explanations of media influence on pro-social behaviour. *(4 marks + 6 marks)*
- 0 9** The Government wants to reduce the number of accidents caused by drivers exceeding the 30 mph speed limit in built-up areas. An advertising company is asked to create a television advertisement to persuade drivers to reduce their speed.
- Suggest some possible features of the television advertisement. Justify your suggestions with reference to the Hovland-Yale model. *(10 marks)*
- 1 0** Outline findings of research into celebrity worship. *(4 marks)*
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Topic: The Psychology of Addictive Behaviour

- 1 1** Outline how the learning approach would explain the maintenance of gambling. *(4 marks)*
- 1 2** Fifteen-year-old Jenny has recently started smoking. She believes that smoking will stop her putting on weight and help her to cope with stress. Most of her friends smoke and she thinks that smoking helps her to fit in with the group of popular girls, whom she sees as fun-loving and cool.
- Using your knowledge of vulnerability to addiction, discuss some of the vulnerability factors that contribute to Jenny's smoking. Refer to relevant research in your answer. *(10 marks)*
- 1 3** Outline **one** biological intervention for reducing addictive behaviour **and** evaluate the effectiveness of this intervention. *(4 marks + 6 marks)*
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Section B continues on the next page

Turn over ►

Topic: Anomalistic Psychology

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 Outline **two** differences between science and pseudoscience. *(4 marks)*
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 Magical thinking is a common type of anomalistic experience. Estate agents have great difficulty selling houses where a murder or other tragedy has occurred, even when the asking price is below what the house is worth. Workers in dangerous occupations, such as deep-sea fishermen, often engage in elaborate rituals before going to sea.
- How would a psychologist explain the examples of magical thinking shown in the extract above? *(10 marks)*
- | | |
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| 1 | 6 |
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 Discuss **one or more** explanations of psychic mediumship. *(4 marks + 6 marks)*

Section C Psychological Research and Scientific Method

Answer **all** questions in this section.

This topic carries 35 marks.

Topic: Psychological Research and Scientific Method

Some studies have suggested that there may be a relationship between intelligence and happiness. To investigate this claim, a psychologist used a standardised test to measure intelligence in a sample of 30 children aged 11 years, who were chosen from a local secondary school. He also asked the children to complete a self-report questionnaire designed to measure happiness. The score from the intelligence test was correlated with the score from the happiness questionnaire. The psychologist used a Spearman's rho test to analyse the data. He found that the correlation between intelligence and happiness at age 11 was +0.42.

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 Write an operationalised non-directional hypothesis for this study. *(2 marks)*
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 Identify an alternative method which could have been used to collect data about happiness in this study. Explain why this method might be better than using a questionnaire. *(4 marks)*
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 What is meant by internal validity? *(1 mark)*
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 Describe **how** the internal validity of the happiness questionnaire could be assessed. *(3 marks)*
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 A Spearman's rho test was used to analyse the data. Give **two** reasons why this test was used. *(2 marks)*

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Turn over ►

Table 1: Extract from table of critical values from Spearman's rho(r_s) test

N (number of participants)	Level of significance for a two-tailed test	
	0.10	0.05
	Level of significance for a one-tailed test	
	0.05	0.025
29	0.312	0.368
30	0.306	0.362
31	0.301	0.356

Calculated r_s must equal or exceed the table (critical) value for significance at the level shown.

2 | 2

The psychologist used a non-directional hypothesis. Using **Table 1**, state whether or not the correlation between intelligence and happiness at age 11 (+0.42) was significant. Explain your answer. (3 marks)

2 | 3

Five years later, the same young people were asked to complete the intelligence test and the happiness questionnaire for a second time. This time the correlation was -0.29 .

With reference to **both** correlation scores, outline what these findings seem to show about the link between intelligence and happiness. (4 marks)

The report was subjected to peer review before it was published in a journal.

2 | 4

What is meant by peer review? (2 marks)

2 | 5

Explain why peer review is an important aspect of the scientific process. (4 marks)

2 | 6

A psychology student was asked to design an investigation to see whether taking exercise could increase feelings of happiness. She proposed to do an experiment. She decided to recruit a sample of volunteers who had just joined a gym, by putting up a poster in the gym. She planned to carry out a short interview with each volunteer and to give each one a happiness score. She intended to interview the volunteers again after they had attended the gym for six weeks and to reassess their happiness score to see if it had changed.

The psychology student's teacher identified a number of limitations of the proposed experiment.

Explain **one or more** limitations of the student's proposal **and** suggest how the investigation could be improved. (10 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

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