



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Level Examination
June 2015

Psychology (Specification A)

PSYA4

Unit 4 Psychopathology, Psychology in Action and Research Methods

Tuesday 16 June 2015 9.00 am to 11.00 am

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 **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 the clinical characteristics of schizophrenia. **[4 marks]**
- 0 | 2** Outline **one** biological therapy for schizophrenia. **[4 marks]**
- 0 | 3** Evaluate biological therapies for schizophrenia. **[16 marks]**
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Topic: Depression

- 0 | 4** Discuss psychological explanations for depression. **[8 marks + 16 marks]**
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Topic: Phobic Disorders

- 0 | 5** Outline and evaluate **one** psychological explanation for phobic disorders. **[4 marks + 8 marks]**
- 0 | 6** Outline and evaluate **one** psychological therapy for phobic disorders. **[4 marks + 8 marks]**

Topic: Obsessive Compulsive Disorder

- 0 7** Outline the clinical characteristics of obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD). **[4 marks]**
- 0 8** Outline **one** biological therapy for obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD). **[4 marks]**
- 0 9** Evaluate biological therapies for obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD). **[16 marks]**

Turn over for Section B

Turn over ►

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

1 0 Describe findings of **one or more** studies into the negative effects of video games on behaviour. **[4 marks]**

Obesity is a serious public health concern and the government wishes to encourage people to become more physically active. The government decides to use a TV advertising campaign to encourage adults to be more physically active, such as walking to work.

1 1 Use your knowledge of the Elaboration Likelihood Model of persuasion to suggest features of a successful TV advertising campaign to encourage adults to become more active. **[10 marks]**

1 2 Outline **one** evolutionary explanation of attraction to celebrity. **[4 marks]**

1 3 Evaluate evolutionary explanations of attraction to celebrity. **[6 marks]**

Topic: The Psychology of Addictive Behaviour

Many smokers make repeated attempts to give up, but start smoking again. A health psychologist attended a 'Stop smoking' group at a medical centre and recorded the reasons given by smokers for previous relapses. The most common reason was unpleasant withdrawal symptoms such as physically craving a cigarette. Other reasons for relapse were socialising with smokers and thinking that smoking would relieve stress.

1 4 Use your knowledge of models of addiction to explain **two** of the reasons for relapse in the above scenario. **[10 marks]**

1 5 Discuss the influence of media on addictive behaviour. **[4 marks + 6 marks]**

1 6 Outline **one** biological intervention for treating addictive behaviour. **[4 marks]**

Topic: Anomalistic Psychology

1 7 Outline **two** methodological issues in the study of psychokinesis. **[2 marks + 2 marks]**

Sam and Zara share a flat which Sam thinks may be haunted. Sam occasionally feels a 'presence' in the kitchen, and doors seem to open mysteriously during the night. Sam loves risky sports, and friends describe him as outgoing and willing to try anything new. Zara, on the other hand, does not believe the flat is haunted. She prefers more sedate activities, and friends describe her as cautious and reserved.

1 8 Use your knowledge of personality factors underlying anomalous experience to explain the differences between Sam and Zara. **[10 marks]**

1 9 'Research has revealed a number of scientific explanations for near death experiences.' Outline **one** such explanation for near death experiences and evaluate this explanation using research evidence. **[4 marks + 6 marks]**

Turn over for Section C

Turn over ►

Section C Psychological Research and Scientific Method

Answer **all** questions in this section.

This topic carries 35 marks.

Topic: Psychological Research and Scientific Method

A psychology teacher observed that many of his students drew or scribbled aimlessly during lessons. He wondered whether this doodling had any effect on the ability of students to recall material.

The teacher could not find any research on the topic so he decided to conduct his own experiment. He chose two of his AS classes of psychology students to participate. Each class was given a 2 minute audio recording which listed the names of 25 fictional students. All students were given the same set of standardised instructions telling them to listen carefully to the recording and to report whether the name 'Sam Smith' was mentioned.

- The 20 students in Class A listened to the audio recording without distractions.
- The 20 students in Class B were instructed to doodle whilst listening to the audio recording.

After the audio recording had been played, the teacher explained to each class that the task had nothing at all to do with identifying the name Sam Smith. Instead, he instructed them to write down as many of the names as possible which had been mentioned in the audio recording.

- | | |
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| 2 | 0 |
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 Write a fully operationalised non-directional hypothesis for the above experiment. **[3 marks]**
- | | |
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| 2 | 1 |
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 Identify the sampling strategy used by the teacher and explain implications of using this sample in this experiment. **[1 mark + 4 marks]**
- | | |
|---|---|
| 2 | 2 |
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 Identify **one** control which was implemented in this experiment and explain why this control was important. **[1 mark + 2 marks]**
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| 2 | 3 |
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 Explain how the teacher might have dealt with the ethical issue of deception in this experiment. **[4 marks]**

The teacher counted the number of names recalled by each participant, then carried out a Mann–Whitney U test in order to see whether the difference between conditions was significant. He obtained a value $U = 124$.

Table 1 Critical values of U for a two-tailed test at $p < 0.05$ (Mann–Whitney)

n_1	18	19	20
n_2			
18	99	106	112
19	106	113	119
20	112	119	127

For n_1 and n_2 the observed value of U is significant if it is equal to or less than the critical values shown.

2 | 4 What level of measurement is required when carrying out the Mann–Whitney U test? **[1 mark]**

2 | 5 Using Table 1, state whether the value of $U = 124$ was significant. Explain your answer. **[3 marks]**

The teacher found that Class B performed better on the memory task, recalling around 30% more of the names than Class A. He constructed a theory based on his findings. He theorised that doodling improves recall by reducing the tendency to daydream during activities.

2 | 6 What is a theory? **[2 marks]**

2 | 7 Why is theory construction a major feature of how science works? **[4 marks]**

A colleague of the teacher noticed that there were large individual differences in the scores. He suggested that the teacher should have used a repeated measures design.

2 | 8 Design an experiment to test whether doodling affects recall, using a repeated measures design. As part of your answer you should explain how you would control extraneous variables associated with the repeated measures design, and the materials you would use.

You are not required to explain how you would deal with ethical issues or sampling in your experiment.

[10 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page