

A-level PSYCHOLOGY (SPECIFICATION B)

Unit 4 Approaches, Debates and Methods in Psychology

Wednesday 14 June 2017

Afternoon

Time allowed: 2 hours

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is PSYB4.
- Choose **one** option from **Section A**, either **Option A** or **Option B**. Answer **all** questions on the option you choose.
- **All** questions in **Section B** and **Section C** are compulsory.
- Do all rough work in the 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 60.
- The 12-mark questions should be answered in continuous prose. You are advised to plan your answers carefully. In these questions, you will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Section A Approaches in Psychology

There are two options in this section: Option A and Option B.

Choose **one** of these options. Answer **all** questions on the option you choose.

Each option carries 20 marks.

Option A

Social Learning Theorists, like Bandura, believe that children learn through observation.

A psychologist decided to investigate the effects of observational learning with a new group of Year 7 students. These students were very untidy at lunchtime in the school canteen, often leaving their trays on the table and food scattered about.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 0 | 1 |
|---|---|

 Explain how the psychologist could use the experimental method to investigate observational learning of tidying away lunchtime trays. [4 marks]
- | | |
|---|---|
| 0 | 2 |
|---|---|

 Briefly outline **one** strength and **one** limitation of Social Learning Theory. [4 marks]
- | | |
|---|---|
| 0 | 3 |
|---|---|

 A number of post-Freudian theories have been developed within the psychodynamic approach. Discuss **two** post-Freudian theories. [12 marks]
-

Option B

Karen was walking to her car after work when suddenly she saw a large, growling Rottweiler dog, baring its teeth and running straight towards her. Karen froze for a moment and realised that she was in grave danger. She decided to run very quickly to the safety of her car. She was shaking and sweating and her heart was beating very fast as she reached the car with the dog at her heels.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 0 | 4 |
|---|---|

 Briefly outline the role of the central nervous system **and** the autonomic nervous system in Karen's experience. [4 marks]
- | | |
|---|---|
| 0 | 5 |
|---|---|

 Explain **one** way that researchers have studied the genetic basis of behaviour. [4 marks]
- | | |
|---|---|
| 0 | 6 |
|---|---|

 Outline the main assumptions of the cognitive approach. Discuss **at least one** similarity and **at least one** difference between the cognitive and behaviourist approaches in psychology. [12 marks]

Section B Debates in Psychology

Answer **all** questions in this section.

This section carries 20 marks.

- 0 7** Briefly explain **two** strengths of the idiographic approach in psychology. **[4 marks]**
- 0 8** Outline what is meant by a 'hypothesis', and explain the role of hypothesis testing in scientific research. **[4 marks]**
- 0 9** Discuss the free will and determinism debate in psychology. Refer to **at least one** topic in your answer. **[12 marks]**

Turn over for Section C

Turn over ►

Section C Methods in Psychology

Answer **all** questions in this section.

This section carries 20 marks.

A researcher wanted to investigate differences between boys' and girls' attitudes to healthy eating. Forty 14-year-old students (20 girls and 20 boys) at a local school were asked to complete a healthy-eating questionnaire designed by the researcher. The questionnaire contained 20 questions, and each question was of the same format. Below are two examples of questions included in the questionnaire:

Do you eat fresh fruit each day? YES / NO
 Are cakes unhealthy? YES / NO

The questionnaire was scored by giving every 'yes' response 1 point and every 'no' response 0 points. The maximum score was 20, which would indicate a very healthy attitude to eating. The minimum score was 0. Below is a summary table of the results from this study.

Table 1 Measures of central tendency and dispersion for the scores for boys and girls from the healthy-eating questionnaire

	Boys	Girls
Median score	9	14
Range	7	2

- 1 | 0** The questionnaire only included closed questions. Briefly discuss **one** limitation of using closed questions. **[2 marks]**
- 1 | 1** The researcher constructed and administered the questionnaire herself. Explain **one** reason why this might have been a problem in this study. **[2 marks]**
- 1 | 2** The researcher wanted to check the reliability of the questionnaire. Explain what is meant by 'reliability' and outline **one** way of checking the reliability of this questionnaire. **[3 marks]**
- 1 | 3** The researcher wanted to check the validity of the questionnaire. Explain what is meant by validity and outline **one** way of checking the concurrent validity of this questionnaire. **[3 marks]**
- 1 | 4** Explain why the median is an appropriate measure of central tendency for this study. **[1 mark]**

1 | 5

Outline what the researcher could conclude from the medians **and** the ranges in **Table 1** on page 4. Justify your answer.

[2 marks]**1 | 6**

The researcher used a Mann-Whitney U statistical test on the data. The test was a 2-tailed test, and the chosen level of significance was $p \leq 0.05$. The calculated value of U was 106.

Explain whether or not the null hypothesis can be rejected. Refer to the table of critical values (below) in your answer.

[2 marks]**Table 2** Critical values for the Mann-Whitney U-test: 5% level of significance

		n_1																			
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
n_2																					
1		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2		-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
3		-	-	-	-	0	1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	6	6	7	7	8
4		-	-	-	0	1	2	3	4	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	11	12	13	13
5		-	-	0	1	2	3	5	6	7	8	9	11	12	13	14	15	17	18	19	20
6		-	-	1	2	3	5	6	8	10	11	13	14	16	17	19	21	22	24	25	27
7		-	-	1	3	5	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	28	30	32	34
8		-	0	2	4	6	8	10	13	15	17	19	22	24	26	29	31	34	36	38	41
9		-	0	2	4	7	10	12	15	17	21	23	26	28	31	34	37	39	42	45	48
10		-	0	3	5	8	11	14	17	20	23	26	29	33	36	39	42	45	48	52	55
11		-	0	3	6	9	13	16	19	23	26	30	33	37	40	44	47	51	55	58	62
12		-	1	4	7	11	14	18	22	26	29	33	37	41	45	49	53	57	61	65	69
13		-	1	4	8	12	16	20	24	28	33	37	41	45	50	54	59	63	67	72	76
14		-	1	5	9	13	17	22	26	31	36	40	45	50	55	59	64	67	74	78	83
15		-	1	5	10	14	19	24	29	34	39	44	49	54	59	64	70	75	80	85	90
16		-	1	6	11	15	21	26	31	37	42	47	53	59	64	70	75	81	86	92	98
17		-	2	6	11	17	22	28	34	39	45	51	57	63	67	75	81	87	93	99	105
18		-	2	7	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	55	61	67	74	80	86	93	99	106	112
19		-	2	7	13	19	25	32	38	45	52	58	65	72	78	85	92	99	106	113	119
20		-	2	8	13	20	27	34	41	48	55	62	69	76	83	90	98	105	112	119	127

Calculated value of U must be equal to or less than the critical value in this table for significance to be shown

Section C continues on the next page

Turn over ►

1

7

The researcher wanted more detailed information on attitudes to healthy eating. She decided to conduct individual unstructured interviews with two boys and two girls who had completed the original questionnaire.

Explain how the sample could be selected and the interviews conducted. In your answer you should:

- Explain how the two boys and two girls could be selected. Justify your decision.
- Suggest a suitable location for the interview. Justify your decision.
- Explain ethical considerations.
- Provide a brief introduction that can be read out to the boys and girls at the start of the interviews.

[5 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

There are no questions printed on this page

Copyright information

For confidentiality purposes, from the November 2015 examination series, acknowledgements of third party copyright material will be published in a separate booklet rather than including them on the examination paper or support materials. This booklet is published after each examination series and is available for free download from www.aqa.org.uk after the live examination series.

Permission to reproduce all copyright material has been applied for. In some cases, efforts to contact copyright-holders may have been unsuccessful and AQA will be happy to rectify any omissions of acknowledgements. If you have any queries please contact the Copyright Team, AQA, Stag Hill House, Guildford, GU2 7XJ.

Copyright © 2017 AQA and its licensors. All rights reserved.

