

A-level PSYCHOLOGY (SPECIFICATION A)

Unit 4 Psychopathology, Psychology in Action and Research Methods

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 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** psychological explanation for schizophrenia. **[4 marks]**
- 0 | 3** Evaluate **one or more** psychological explanations of schizophrenia. **[16 marks]**
-

Topic: Depression

- 0 | 4** Outline the clinical characteristics of depression. **[4 marks]**
- 0 | 5** Outline **one** biological therapy for depression. **[4 marks]**
- 0 | 6** Evaluate **one or more** biological therapies for depression. **[16 marks]**
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Topic: Phobic Disorders

- 0 | 7** Outline the clinical characteristics of phobic disorders. **[4 marks]**
- 0 | 8** Outline **one** psychological therapy for phobic disorders. **[4 marks]**
- 0 | 9** Evaluate **one or more** psychological therapies for phobic disorders. **[16 marks]**

Topic: Obsessive Compulsive Disorder

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 Outline the clinical characteristics of obsessive compulsive disorder. **[4 marks]**
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| 1 | 1 |
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 Outline **one** biological therapy for obsessive compulsive disorder. **[4 marks]**
- | | |
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| 1 | 2 |
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 Evaluate **one or more** biological therapies for obsessive compulsive disorder. **[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 3 Discuss what research studies have shown about the negative effects of computers **and/or** video games on behaviour. **[4 marks + 6 marks]**

1 4 Outline the Elaboration Likelihood Model of persuasion. **[4 marks]**

Chris, Jo and Alex are all fans of a new band that has recently taken the music world by storm. Chris enjoys going to their concerts, likes to play their songs and discuss these with friends. Jo has been to all the concerts on the band's current tour and has built up an extensive collection of the band's merchandise. Alex thinks about little else and spends hours on social media following postings about the band and even waits outside the lead singer's house in the hope of catching a glimpse. Alex also tries to contact the lead singer regularly on social media.

1 5 How would psychological research into intense fandom explain the different relationships with celebrities in the above scenario? **[10 marks]**

Topic: The Psychology of Addictive Behaviour

1 6 Discuss how the cognitive model of addictive behaviour explains an addiction to gambling. **[4 marks + 6 marks]**

Mark is a young man who has a well-established smoking habit. However, he has been smoking more cigarettes over the last few weeks and is now worried that he has become addicted to nicotine. He recently left college after taking his exams and is now waiting for his exam results. He is anxious about how the exams went and does not feel that he has done very well.

1 7 Using your knowledge of risk factors in addictive behaviour, explain some of the reasons for Mark's addiction to smoking. **[10 marks]**

1 8 Outline the theory of planned behaviour as a model for addiction prevention. **[4 marks]**

Topic: Anomalistic Psychology

1 9 Explain **two** differences between science and pseudoscience.

[4 marks]

Tom has been a deep-sea fisherman for many years and has always returned home safely. When going to sea he never wears a red sweater. Tom's brother died at sea and red was his brother's favourite colour. When Tom needs to turn his boat he turns it clockwise, never anticlockwise. While Tom is at sea his wife never sweeps the floor towards the door of their house.

2 0 How might a psychologist explain these examples of magical thinking?

[10 marks]

2 1 Discuss what research studies into exceptional experience have shown about psychic mediumship.

[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

Read this information very carefully as you will need to refer to it in later questions.

A small group of researchers was interested in the relationship between intelligence and creativity. They investigated this relationship using a random sample of twenty students from one year group in the same secondary school.

The researchers asked each student to complete two tests, one test for measuring intelligence and the other for measuring creativity. These were previously published tests for which internal validity had already been established. The test used to measure intelligence consisted of 50 questions. The researchers totalled correct answers from this test to give an intelligence score for each participant. The creativity test produced qualitative data in the form of drawings. These were assessed by each researcher individually and the results converted to quantitative data.

- | | |
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 What is meant by a 'random sample'? Suggest why the researchers chose to use random sampling to select participants for this investigation. **[1 mark + 3 marks]**
- | | |
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| 2 | 3 |
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 Explain why the researchers used tests for which 'internal validity had already been established'. **[2 marks]**
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 The researchers were concerned whether their marking of the creativity test was reliable. How might the researchers have assessed reliability for their marking of the creativity test? **[3 marks]**
- | | |
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| 2 | 5 |
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 Write a fully operationalised non-directional hypothesis for this investigation. **[2 marks]**
- | | |
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| 2 | 6 |
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 Imagine that you are one of the researchers in this investigation. Explain how you would debrief the student participants. **[5 marks]**

The results of the investigation were analysed using Spearman's Rho. This gave a value of $r_s=+0.6$. For $N=20$ this result was found to be significant at $p \leq 0.05$, two tailed.

2 | 7 Give **two** reasons why the researchers used Spearman's Rho to analyse their data. **[2 marks]**

2 | 8 Explain the statement 'this result was found to be significant at $p \leq 0.05$, two tailed'. **[3 marks]**

2 | 9 What is meant by a type 1 error? Explain whether the researchers are likely to have made a type 1 error in this investigation. **[3 marks]**

The researchers hoped to get their study published and needed to provide an abstract for their report before sending it for peer review.

3 | 0 What is the purpose of the abstract in a psychological report and what should the abstract contain? **[3 marks]**

3 | 1 Outline strengths and weaknesses of the peer review process. **[5 marks]**

3 | 2 After the study was published, a newspaper reported that the study showed that high levels of intelligence led to high levels of creativity. Explain why this newspaper's interpretation of the results of the study might be inappropriate. **[3 marks]**

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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