



A-level PSYCHOLOGY (7182/3)

Paper 3 Issues and Options in Psychology

2017

Morning

Time allowed: 2 hours

Materials

For this paper you may have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book
- a calculator.

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 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 this 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.

Section A

Issues and debates in Psychology

Answer **all** questions in this section

0 1 . |

Which of the following statements best describes a nomothetic approach in psychology? Shade **one** box only.

Psychologists taking a nomothetic approach...

A study single cases and do not formulate general laws.

☐

B study groups of people and do not formulate general laws.

☐

C study groups of people and formulate general laws.

☐

D study single cases and formulate general laws.

☐

[1 mark]

Read the item and then answer the questions that follow.

Extract from a newspaper article

Coping with Life's Pressures

Depression often runs in families, but many depressed people have serious social problems or have experienced traumatic events in the past. However, many people find ways to cope. What we need is the will to overcome our problems.

0 2 . | 1

With reference to the item above, explain what is meant by 'determinism'. Refer to **three** types of determinism in your answer.

[6 marks]

0 2 . | 2

With reference to the item above, identify **one** influence of nature on our behaviour and **one** influence of nurture on our behaviour.

[2 marks]

0 3

Read the item and then answer the questions that follow.

In a study of antisocial activity and social background, researchers interviewed 100 children aged 14 years. They then classified each child according to their level of antisocial activity. They concluded that 26 were 'very antisocial', 40 were 'mildly antisocial' and 34 were 'not antisocial'. The researchers found that the majority of the 'very antisocial' children attended Crayford secondary school, whereas most of the other two groups of children attended another local school.

0 3 . 1 The study on the opposite page is an example of socially sensitive research.

Briefly explain how the researchers could have dealt with the issue of social sensitivity in this study. **[4 marks]**

0 3 . 2 What level of measurement is being used in this study? **[1 mark]**

0 3 . 3 Explain **one** limitation of the level of measurement you have identified in your answer to 03.2. **[2 marks]**

0 4 Outline and evaluate reductionist explanations in psychology. **[8 marks]**

Turn over for the next section

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

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

Topic: Relationships

0 5

Briefly outline the absorption addiction model of parasocial relationships. **[2 marks]**

0 6

Explain **two** limitations of the absorption addiction model of parasocial relationships. **[6 marks]**

0 7

Read the item and answer the question that follows.

Teddy is discussing his girlfriend, Sasha. He says, 'We were in the same year at university, both studying marketing. She was really good at the theoretical side and I was better when it came to practical work. We specialise in different areas now. I'm always proud to be seen out with Sasha. Other guys are really jealous when they see her. We tell each other everything though, no secrets in our relationship.'

Discuss factors affecting attraction in romantic relationships. Refer to Teddy's comments in your answer. **[16 marks]**

Topic: Gender

0 8 Briefly outline the biological explanation for gender identity disorder. **[2 marks]**

0 9 Explain **two** limitations of the biological explanation for gender identity disorder. **[6 marks]**

1 0 Read the item and answer the question that follows.

Social psychologists are writing a report about their research into children's toys. They write, 'Parents still tend to buy pink for girls. In fact, it is hard to find any adverts aimed at girls that are not 'pink and fluffy'. For boys, parents tend to buy more competitive or combat-type toys. Good against evil is a common theme in adverts aimed at boys. Even at school, playground activities are different. As children get older, boys and girls tend to have more shared interests like music'.

Discuss the influence of culture **and** media on the development of gender roles. Refer to the report above in your answer. **[16 marks]**

Section B continues on the next page

Topic: Cognition and Development

1 1 Briefly outline theory of mind as an explanation for autism.

[2 marks]

1 2 Explain **two** limitations of theory of mind as an explanation for autism.

[6 marks]

1 3 Read the item and answer the question that follows.

Two school inspectors are writing reports of their recent primary school observations. Mrs McLean writes, 'Students worked alone. They were given tasks and materials then had to solve problems by trial and error'.

Mrs Watt writes, 'Students worked in pairs of differing ability so they could help each other and talk through each stage. The teacher demonstrated and advised them until they could manage on their own.'

Discuss Piaget's and Vygotsky's views on the development of cognition. Refer to the inspectors' comments in your answer.

[16 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

1 4

Discuss reliability **and/or** validity in relation to the diagnosis and classification of schizophrenia. **[8 marks]**

A researcher investigated the effectiveness of typical and atypical psychotics in schizophrenia patients with either negative or positive symptoms.

Table 1: Percentages of patients with either negative or positive symptoms, responding well to typical or atypical antipsychotics.

	Number of patients responding well to atypical antipsychotics	Number of patients responding well to typical antipsychotics
Patients with negative symptoms	30	16
Patients with positive symptoms	60	60

1 5

What do the data in **Table 1** seem to show about the effectiveness of typical and atypical antipsychotics in the treatment of schizophrenia?

[4 marks]

1 6

Apart from effectiveness, briefly explain **one** limitation of drug therapy for schizophrenia.

[2 marks]

1 7

Briefly outline family dysfunction as an explanation for schizophrenia.

[2 marks]

1 8

Discuss token economies as a method used in the management of schizophrenia.

[8 marks]

Topic: Eating behaviour

1 9 Discuss **one or more** biological explanations for anorexia nervosa.

[8 marks]

A psychologist wanted to compare food consumption in people on a diet ('restrained eaters') and people not on a diet ('unrestrained eaters'). Each group was given two milkshakes to drink as 'preloading'. They were then given access to bite sized cakes and the psychologist recorded the number of cakes eaten in 5 minutes. The results are given in **Table 2** below:

Table 2: Mean number of cakes eaten by restrained and unrestrained eaters

Group	Mean number of cakes eaten
Restrained eaters	14.6
Unrestrained eaters	6.3

2 0 With reference to psychological explanations for the success and failure of dieting, how would you explain the data in **Table 2**?

[4 marks]

2 1 Discuss social learning theory as an explanation for anorexia nervosa.

[8 marks]

2 2 Briefly explain **one** limitation of the evolutionary explanation of food preferences.

[2 marks]

2 3 Briefly outline neophobia as an explanation for food preferences.

[2 marks]

Topic: Stress

2 4 Briefly explain what is meant by instrumental social support.

[2 marks]

A psychologist is interested in gender differences in the use of two different types of social support in coping with stress. Using a questionnaire to test responses to a range of stressful situations, he obtains data from 100 males and 100 females. These results are shown in the Table below:

Table 3: Gender differences in types of social support used in coping with stress

	Number using instrumental social support	Number using emotional social support	Number using both instrumental and emotional social support	Totals
Males	54	23	23	100
Females	20	48	32	100
	74	71	55	200

2 5 Using your knowledge of gender differences in types of social support, explain the findings in **Table 3**.

[4 marks]

2 6 Discuss sources of workplace stress.

[8 marks]

2 7 Explain **one** limitation of the Hassles and Uplifts Scale as a method of measuring stress.

[2 marks]

2 8 With reference to research evidence, discuss links between stress and illness.

[8 marks]

Turn over for the next section

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

2 | 9 Discuss the role of genetic factors in aggression.

[16 marks]

A psychologist was interested in the effects of violent computer games on aggression in young boys. Following appropriate ethical procedures she set up a study in which she identified ten boys who played violent computer games for at least two hours a day (Group A), and another group of ten boys who did not play violent computer games (Group B). The boys were systematically observed in their school playground on five separate occasions and the total number of aggressive behaviours they demonstrated was recorded. The data are given in **Table 4** below:

Table 4: The effects of playing violent computer games on aggressive behaviour in boys

Group A	Number of aggressive acts	Group B	Number of aggressive acts
1	19	1	8
2	9	2	7
3	3	3	11
4	18	4	7
5	13	5	6
6	16	6	24
7	5	7	9
8	3	8	10
9	7	9	5
10	35	10	10
Median		Median	

3 | 0 Complete **Table 4** by calculating the median for the two groups. Why did the psychologist use the median as a measure of central tendency rather than the mean?

[4 marks]

3 | 1 Briefly outline the possible role of cognitive priming in the effects of computer games on aggression.

[2 marks]

3 | 2 Briefly explain **one** limitation of the situational explanation for institutional aggression.

[2 marks]

Topic: Forensic psychology

- 3 3** Briefly outline differential association theory as an explanation for offending. **[2 marks]**

- 3 4** Briefly explain **one** limitation of this theory. **[2 marks]**

Prison staff compared two methods of managing anger in offenders. One group of offenders took part in cognitive therapy. Another group of offenders took part in discussion therapy.

After one month following the training, levels of anger for each individual were rated by prison staff on a scale of 0 – 100. The results are given in **Table 5** below:

Table 5: Ratings of anger in offenders given either systematic CBT anger management training or general advice

Cognitive Group	Anger rating	Discussion Group	Anger rating
1	37	1	44
2	45	2	22
3	23	3	74
4	17	4	36
5	41	5	66
6	32	6	63
7	27	7	44
8	26	8	81
9	38	9	56
10	52	10	45
Median		Median	

- 3 5** Complete **Table 5** by calculating the median for the two groups. Show your working. Why did the psychologist use the median as a measure of central tendency rather than the mean?

[4 marks]

- 3 6** Discuss biological explanations of offending behaviour.

[16 marks]

Topic: Addiction

3 7 Briefly outline the theory of planned behaviour.

[2 marks]

3 8 Explain **one** limitation of this theory.

[2 marks]

A psychologist was interested in the role of sensation-seeking in the development of addictive behaviour. She tested ten participants addicted to smoking (Group A) and ten participants who had no addictive behaviours (Group B). Each participant was given a questionnaire that measured sensation-seeking. Scores on the questionnaire are given in **Table 6** below:

Table 6: Sensation seeking scores for those with addictive behaviours and for those with no addictions

Group A (Addicted to smoking)	Score on sensation-seeking questionnaire	Group B (No addictive behaviours)	Score on sensation-seeking questionnaire
1	65	1	16
2	32	2	25
3	25	3	27
4	29	4	24
5	28	5	59
6	30	6	26
7	18	7	33
8	30	8	21
9	35	9	18
10	28	10	23
Median		Median	

3 9 Complete **Table 6** by calculating the median and range for the two groups. Why did the psychologist use the median rather than the mode?

[4 marks]

4 0 Outline and evaluate behavioural interventions aimed at reducing addiction.

[16 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS