

AQA A Level Psychology Unit Assessment

Forensic Psychology (Edition 1)

⌚ 1 hour

⌚ The maximum mark for this unit
assessment is 48

Name

Centre Name

AQA A Level Psychology

Unit Assessment – Forensic Psychology

ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS IN THIS SECTION

1 Below are four statements about atavistic form as an explanation of offending behaviour. Which statement is FALSE?

- A One cranial feature of atavistic form is facial symmetry. ☐
- B One cranial feature of atavistic form is a prominent jaw. ☐
- C Lombroso saw criminals as 'biological throwbacks'. ☐
- D Lombroso concluded that 40% of criminal acts could be accounted for by atavistic characteristics. ☐

(1 mark)

2 Below are four evaluative statements in relation to cognitive explanations for offending. Which statement is TRUE?

- A A strength of cognitive explanations for offending is that they are supported by Bowlby's maternal deprivation theory. ☐
- B A limitation of cognitive explanations for offending is that they are descriptive rather than explanatory. ☐
- C A strength of cognitive explanations for offending is that they help to explain why extroverts commit more crimes than introverts. ☐
- D A limitation of cognitive explanations for offending is that they are unable to produce effective treatments to reduce crime. ☐

(1 mark)

3 Briefly explain how a victim survey measures crime.

(2 marks)

Tom has recently been jailed for assaulting someone out of 'road rage'. Late picking up his son from school, Tom claimed that the person 'got in his way'. Tom believed that the person got in his way deliberately, when in fact the victim was new to the area and lost. This was not Tom's first offence; he was recently charged with assaulting someone in a pub, who, he claimed, had 'deliberately bumped into him'. Tom has now agreed to take part in an anger management programme whilst in prison.

8 Explain how anger management could be used to deal with Tom's offending behaviour.

(4 marks)

9 Discuss restorative justice programmes as a way of dealing with recidivism.

(16 marks)

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Mark Scheme Forensic Psychology (Edition 1)

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9 Discuss restorative justice programmes as a way of dealing with recidivism.

(16 marks)

Marks for this question: AO1 = 6 and AO3 = 10

LEVEL	MARKS	DESCRIPTION
4	13–16	Knowledge of restorative justice programmes as a way of dealing with recidivism is accurate and generally well detailed. Discussion is thorough and effective. Minor detail and/or expansion of argument is sometimes lacking. The answer is clear, coherent and focused. Specialist terminology is used effectively.
3	9–12	Knowledge of restorative justice programmes as a way of dealing with recidivism is evident, but there are occasional inaccuracies/omissions. Discussion is mostly effective. The answer is mostly clear and organised but occasionally lacks focus. Specialist terminology is used appropriately.
2	5–8	Limited knowledge of restorative justice programmes as a way of dealing with recidivism is shown. Any discussion is of limited effectiveness. The answer lacks clarity, accuracy and organisation in places. Specialist terminology is used inappropriately on occasions.
1	1–4	Knowledge of restorative justice programmes as a way of dealing with recidivism is very limited. Discussion is limited, poorly focused or absent. The answer as a whole lacks clarity, has many inaccuracies and is poorly organised. Specialist terminology is either absent or inappropriately used.
	0	No relevant content.

POSSIBLE CONTENT:

- ➡ The aim of restorative justice is to repair the harm done by an offender rather than just to punish them. The focus is on acceptance of responsibility and positive change.
- ➡ It seeks to address two key aims of the custodial setting: rehabilitation of offenders and atonement for wrongdoing.
- ➡ It is a process of managed collaboration between the offender and the victim, where the meeting is supervised by a trained mediator. The victim is given the opportunity to confront the offender and explain how the crime affected them. The offender is able to see the consequences of their crime, including the emotional distress caused.
- ➡ Not all restorative programmes involve the offender meeting the victim face-to-face. Sometimes the offender might offer some concrete compensation for their crime (e.g. money or unpaid community work), that reflects the damage they have done.
- ➡ The Restorative Justice Council (RJC) is an independent body that establishes clear standards for restorative justice and supports victims and specialists in the field.

POSSIBLE DISCUSSION:

- ➡ Evidence to support the success of the programme. For example, the RJC (2015) report 85% satisfaction from victims in face-to-face meetings with their offenders. They also report an overall 14% reduction in reoffending rates.
- ➡ It also can be very cost effective as shown in a seven-year project conducted by Shapland (2007) that concluded that every £1 spent on restorative justice would save the government £8 through reduced reoffending.
- ➡ A limitation is that restorative justice programmes often suffer from high drop-out rates as offenders or victims may lose their nerve and withdraw.
- ➡ The success of the programme relies on the offender showing remorse and there is a danger that offenders may agree to take part just to avoid prison or for the promise of a reduced sentence. This means that the programme may not lead to a positive outcome.
- ➡ Alternatives to custodial sentences, like restorative justice programmes, do not receive much support from the public and some politicians. This is because they are viewed as a 'soft option'.
- ➡ The programmes cannot be used with all offenders or all types of crime, so it is not a global solution to deal with offending behaviour.

Credit other relevant material.

QUESTION NUMBER	AO1	AO2	AO3	TOTAL
1	1			1
2			1	1
3	2			2
4			4	4
5	4	4		8
6			4	4
7	3		5	8
8		4		4
9	6		10	16
Total	16	8	24	48