

Centre number

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Candidate number

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Surname

Forename(s)

Candidate signature

AQA A Level PSYCHOLOGY

Paper 1 Introductory topics in psychology

Materials

For this paper you may use:

- a calculator.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ballpoint pen.
- Fill in the boxes at the top of this page.
- Answer all questions. You must answer the questions in the space provided. Do not write outside the box around each page or on blank pages.
- 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.
- Questions should be answered in continuous prose. You will be assessed on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

For Examiner's Use	
Section	Mark
A	
B	
C	
D	
TOTAL	

Helen and Sophie have been best friends for many years. They have both joined a new school at the start of year seven and made friends with a new group of girls. The new girls in their friendship group have started smoking at break time. Helen was debating whether she had to join in; however, Sophie refrained from smoking. Helen has also scored highly on an Internal Locus of Control scale. Helen has subsequently decided that she is not going to smoke as well.

- 3 Using your knowledge of resistance to social influence, explain why Helen decided that she is not going to smoke.

(6 marks)

SAMPLE

Section B: Memory

ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS IN THIS SECTION

A student was planning a piece of experimental research on investigating short-term memory (STM) duration. She wanted to see whether there was any difference in STM duration depending on the time of day and planned to test one group of participants in the morning and another group in the afternoon.

- 4 Describe what previous research has shown about the duration of STM. (2 marks)

- 5 What experimental design has the student used and why would it be the most appropriate design to use in this investigation? (3 marks)

- 6 Explain a limitation of using the experimental design identified in question 5 in this investigation. (3 marks)

AQA A Level
PSYCHOLOGY
7182/1

Paper 1 Introductory topics in psychology
Mark scheme

SAMPLE

Section A: Social Influence

1 Outline what is meant by the term social Influence.

(2 marks)

Marks for this question A01= 2

2 marks for a clear and coherent explanation of what is meant by the term social influence.
1 mark for a limited or muddled explanation.

CONTENT:

- ➔ The process by which a person's attitudes, beliefs or behaviours.
- ➔ Are changed/modified by the presence of others, as in obedience or conformity.

SAMPLE

2 Describe and evaluate explanations for conformity.

(16 marks)

Marks for this question A01= 6 and A03= 10

LEVEL	MARKS	DESCRIPTION
4	13-16	Knowledge of explanations of why we conform 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 explanations of why we conform 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 explanations why we conform is present. Focus is mainly on the description. Any discussion that is present 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 explanations of conformity is very limited. Any 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 dual-process model or two-process model** (Deutsch and Gerard, 1955) suggests that there are two main reasons that people conform.
- ➔ **Normative social influence:** Conformity to be liked and to seek approval. Most likely to occur in situations with strangers due to the desire to avoid rejection/looking foolish but also with friends to gain social approval.
- ➔ **Informational Social Influence:** Conformity to be correct. Most likely to happen in new situations where there is some uncertainty over what is right.

POSSIBLE EVALUATION POINTS:

- ➔ **Research support:** Asch - During the debriefing, participants reported conforming due to being unsure (thinking their eyesight failing them) - ISI or because they didn't want to look foolish - NSI.
- ➔ **Lucas et al.** more conformity to difficult maths questions - support for ISI.
- ➔ The weakness of **individual differences**. NSI affects people differently; some people are less bothered about social approval, and others (Affiliators) are more bothered about social approval.
- ➔ The idea behind the two-process model is that conformity is either due to NSI or ISI; however, often both processes work together.

Credit other relevant material.

Helen and Sophie have been best friends for many years. They have both joined a new school at the start of year seven and made friends with a new group of girls. The new girls in their friendship group have started smoking at break time. Helen was debating whether she had to join in; however, Sophie refrained from smoking. Helen has also scored highly on an Internal Locus of Control scale. Helen has subsequently decided that she is not going to smoke as well.

3 Using your knowledge of resistance to social influence, explain why Helen decided that she is not going to smoke.

(6 marks)

Marks for this question: A02=6

LEVEL	MARKS	DESCRIPTION
3	5-6	Knowledge of resistance to social influence, explaining Helen's avoidance of smoking is accurate and generally well detailed. Application is effective. The answer is clear and coherent. Specialist terminology is used effectively.
2	3-4	Some knowledge of how resistance to social influence explains Helen's avoidance of smoking. Application is mostly effective. There is some appropriate use of specialist terminology.
1	1-2	There is limited knowledge of how resistance to social influence explains Helen's avoidance of smoking. The answer as a whole lacks clarity/ accuracy. Application is limited. Specialist terminology is either absent or inappropriately used.
	0	No relevant content

POSSIBLE CONTENT:

- ➔ **Social support:** Helen feels like she has support from Sophie, who has refrained from going to smoke with their new friends. Social support can reduce pressure to conform as the other person can act as a "model."
- ➔ By Sophie being the supportive model, Helen feels like she is more free to follow her own conscience and therefore, has now resisted joining in smoking with her new friends.
- ➔ **Locus of control:** Helen has a high internal Locus of control, and this type of personality is more self-assured and confident, with less need for social approval which will have helped Helen avoid going to smoke with her new friends.

Credit other relevant material.

Centre number

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AQA A Level PSYCHOLOGY

Paper 2 Psychology in context

Materials

For this paper you may use:

- a calculator.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ballpoint pen.
- Fill in the boxes at the top of this page.
- Answer all questions. You must answer the questions in the space provided. Do not write outside the box around each page or on blank pages.
- 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.
- Questions should be answered in continuous prose. You will be assessed on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

For Examiner's Use	
Section	Mark
A	
B	
C	
TOTAL	

Section B: Biopsychology

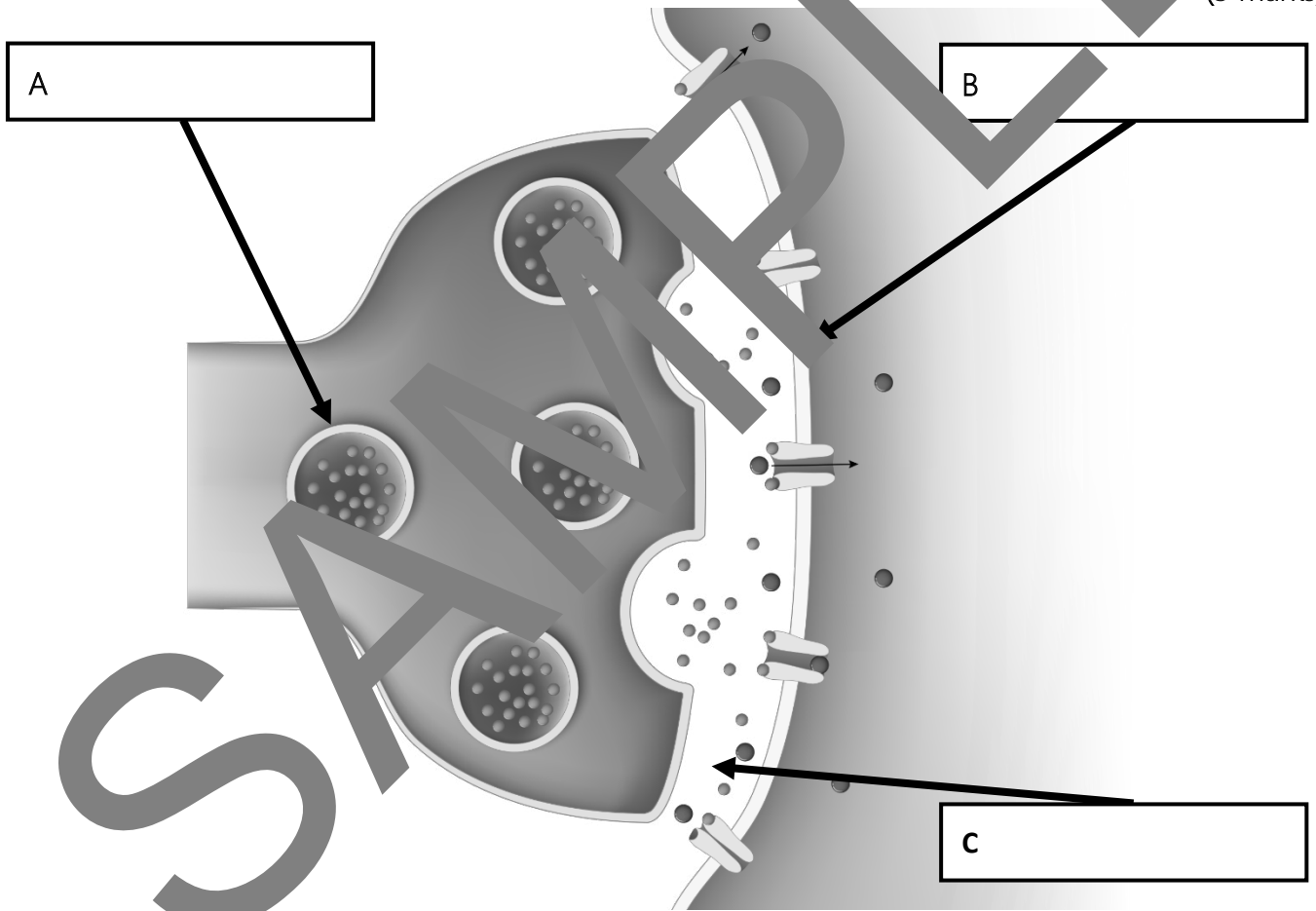
ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS IN THIS SECTION

5 State one difference between glands and hormones.

(1 mark)

6 Label the parts of the neuron shown at A, B and C in the diagram below. Write your answers in the boxes provided.

(3 marks)



Section C: Research Methods

ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS IN THIS SECTION

A psychologist decided to investigate whether different revision strategies had an outcome on test results. He decided to use college students aged 16-19 who were studying for their A levels. He advertised for 30 students to take part in his study over a 12 month period who were in their first year of Psychology A level. One group was asked to use active revision, whereby the students used large A3 sheets of paper to create mind maps from their own notes. The second group were asked to read through their class notes, and the third group were asked to complete past paper questions on the topic using their own notes. Students were then given a test, and the percentage score was calculated.

12 What type of data was collected in this study?

(1 mark)

13 What type of experimental design was used? Explain why this would be an appropriate design to use in this investigation.

(3 marks)

14 What sampling technique was used to gather participants for this study? Give one strength of using this technique in this study.

(2 marks)

23 The psychologist proposed a non-directional hypothesis. Write a suitable non-directional hypothesis for this research.

(3 marks)

24 The psychologist used a repeated measures design and noticed that the participants might have experienced order effects. Explain how order effects could have been controlled.

(2 marks)

The psychologist recorded the number of items participants hit and calculated the mean and standard deviation for each condition.

Table 2: Mean number of items hit and standard deviation for each condition.

	Mean number of items hit	Standard deviation
Receiving and sending text messages.	18.8	2.61
Without texting	5.4	0.75

25 What do the mean and standard deviations values in Table 2 suggest about the effect of receiving and sending text messages on driving skills? Justify your answer?

(4 marks)

AQA A Level
PSYCHOLOGY
7182/2

Paper 2 Psychology in context
Mark scheme

SAMPLE

Section A: Approaches in Psychology

1 Which one of the following is the oldest approach in psychology?

- A Psychodynamic
- B Cognitive
- C Behaviourist
- D Social Learning Theory
- E Biological

(1 mark)

Marks for this question A01 = 1

A. Psychodynamic

2 Classical and operant conditioning are both processes involved in learning. Describe one of these types of learning.

(4 marks)

Marks for this question A01 = 4

For Classical Conditioning award **one mark** for each of the following up to a max of 4

- ➔ Learning by association.
- ➔ Reference to before conditioning - UCS/UCR.
- ➔ Reference to Neutral stimulus.
- ➔ Reference to during conditioning.
- ➔ Reference to After Conditioning - CS/CR.

For Operant Conditioning award **one mark** for each of the following up to a max of 4:

- ➔ Learning by consequences.
- ➔ Positive reinforcement - receiving rewards to encourage desired behaviour to be repeated.
- ➔ Negative reinforcement - having something unpleasant removed so as to encourage behaviour to be repeated.
- ➔ Punishment - an unpleasant consequence to discourage behaviour from being repeated.

Elsa and Ava are two sisters who get on well together. Elsa, who is three years old, adores her older sister Ava, who is five years old. Ava has started to get into a bad habit of jumping on the sofa and damaging the springs. Ava's mum is so busy with work that she ignores this behaviour and Ava has a good time jumping up and down. Elsa has now started to demonstrate this behaviour.

3 Referring to Elsa, explain what type of learning has occurred.

(3 marks)

Marks for this question: A01 = 1 and A02 = 2

1 mark for stating social learning/vicarious learning/vicarious reinforcement.

Plus

2 marks for effective/mostly effective application.

Or

1 mark for limited or poorly focused application.

- ➔ Elsa has observed Ava jumping on the sofa and not wanting to trouble with her mum, so has imitated her behaviour.
- ➔ Ava is Elsa's older sister, and Elsa adores her. This means she would be an important role model for Ava, especially as she is the same gender.
- ➔ Elsa has been indirectly reinforced by seeing Ava rewarded by having lots of fun, so is motivated to imitate her behaviour of jumping on the sofa.

Credit other relevant application.

4 Describe the Humanistic approach. Compare the Humanistic approach with the Psychodynamic approach.

(16 marks)

Marks for this question: A01 = 6 and A03 = 10

LEVEL	MARKS	DESCRIPTION
4	13-16	Knowledge of the Humanistic approach is accurate and generally well detailed. Comparison with the Psychodynamic approach 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 the Humanistic approach is evident, but there are occasional inaccuracies/omissions. Comparison with the Psychodynamic approach 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 the Humanistic approach is present. Focus is mainly on the description. Any comparison with the Psychodynamic approach 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 the Humanistic approach is very limited. Comparison with the Psychodynamic approach 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:

- ➔ Self-determining – humans have the ability to determine their own development.
- ➔ Free Will – humans are able to consciously control and influence their own personal destiny, even within constraints that exist in life from outside forces.
- ➔ Maslow's hierarchy of needs states that the most basic human needs to be met are biological/physiological, such as food, water, shelter and sleep. Then, come safety needs which include resources, employment, family, and health; next is the need for love and belonging, from friends, family, and a sexual partner. After that, comes the need for esteem, including self-esteem and respect from others. Once these 'deficiency needs' have been met, people can turn their attention to self-actualisation, which is at the top of the hierarchy
- ➔ Self Actualisation – humanistic psychologists believe we have an innate tendency to grow psychologically and achieve our full potential, in order to become what we are capable of.
- ➔ Focus on the Self – Rogers was primarily interested in two basic human needs: the need for self-worth and the need for unconditional positive regard from other people. Both emerge from good relationships with supportive parents in childhood, and later with friends and partners. An individual's self-worth has a direct impact on their psychological wellbeing.

- ➔ Congruence - when there is an agreement between an individual's self-concept (the way they see themselves) and the notion of their ideal self, they are said to be in a state of congruence.
- ➔ Conditions of worth are limits placed on a person, either by their parents or other people that are important to them. For example, a parent saying or implying that they will only love their child if they behave in a certain way.

POSSIBLE COMPARISON POINTS:

- ➔ Both are unscientific as many of the concepts are vague and untestable. For example, the id, ego and superego in the psychodynamic approach and the conditions of worth and self-actualisation in humanistic psychology are vague and untestable. This makes them impossible to falsify.
- ➔ Both have led to the development of successful talking therapies for treating mental health problems. The psychodynamic approach led to the development of psychoanalysis. Humanistic psychology led to the development of client-centred therapy.
- ➔ Both suggest humans have innate drives. Humanists argue that humans have innate drives to self-actualise and those taking a psychodynamic approach suggest that the unconscious mind contains a number of innate drives and instincts that influence behaviour and personality.
- ➔ The psychodynamic approach is nomothetic as it creates general laws about behaviour, such as the stages of personality development. However, humanistic psychology takes an idiographic stance as it focuses on subjective human experience and makes no attempt to generate laws.
- ➔ The psychodynamic approach is deterministic as it sees behaviour as being controlled by unconscious drives and early childhood experiences (psychic determinism). In contrast, humanistic psychology is holistic as it focuses on understanding all aspects of human behaviour and interaction.
- ➔ The humanistic approach has been praised for promoting a positive image of the human condition, and humans being basically good, in control of their lives and free to work towards achieving their potential. This is in contrast to Freud who saw human beings as 'slaves to their past' and claimed that all humans exist somewhere between 'common unhappiness and absolute despair'.

Credit other relevant material.

Centre number

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Candidate number

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Surname

Forename(s)

Candidate signature

AQA A Level PSYCHOLOGY

Paper 3 Issues and options in psychology

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an answer booklet

You may use a calculator.

Instructions

- Use blue ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The Paper Reference is 7182.
- 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 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 96.
- Questions should be answered in continuous prose. You will be assessed 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.

- 1 Which two of the following statements about determinism are **false**?
- A Soft determinism suggests that although all behaviour has causes, people do have some conscious mental control.
- B Determinism is the view that our behaviour is shaped by internal rather than external forces.
- C Hard determinism proposes that free will has no place in explaining behaviour.
- D Hard determinism is compatible with the aims of science.
- E Psychic determinism is an example of soft determinism.
- (2 marks)
- 2 Explain one strength and one limitation of a biogenic approach to psychology. (4 marks)
- 3 Briefly explain what is meant by alpha bias in psychological research. (2 marks)

Tina and John are discussing their 5-year old daughter Sarah. Tina tells John that some of Sarah's behaviours are just like his. Tina says that she has to have the last word in an argument and some of her facial expressions are exactly the same as John's. Tina says she thinks that this must be due to genetic factors, but John says that Sarah could have learned them through spending so much time with him. However, Tina points out that Sarah spends more time with her than she does with John, so surely Sarah's behaviour and facial expressions should be more similar to hers.

- 4 Discuss the relative importance of heredity and environment in determining behaviour. Refer to the conversation of Tina and John in your answer. (16 marks)

Section B: Relationships or Gender or Cognition and development

Topic: Relationships

CHOOSE ONE TOPIC FROM SECTION B. ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS ON THE TOPIC YOU CHOOSE.

5 Briefly outline one factor affecting attraction in romantic relationships. (2 marks)

6 Outline one limitation of the absorption-addiction model of parasocial relationships. (2 marks)

A psychologist wanted to investigate the effects of absence of gating on the nature of virtual relationships. The psychologist decided to carry out some interviews with people who were lonely and socially anxious but able to form relationships online. One of the questions asked the participants why they felt more able to form relationships online rather than face to face, collecting qualitative data.

7 Briefly explain how the psychologist could have used content analysis to analyse the qualitative data collected in this investigation. (2 marks)

8 Explain one strength of using content analysis to analyse the qualitative data collected in this investigation. (2 marks)

9 Discuss Duck's model of relationship break down. (16 marks)

Section B: Relationships or Gender or Cognition and development
Topic: Cognition and development

CHOOSE ONE TOPIC FROM SECTION B. ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS ON THE TOPIC YOU CHOOSE.

15 In the context of Vygotsky's theory of cognitive development, briefly outline what is meant by the zone of proximal development. (2 marks)

16 Outline one limitation of Baillargeon's violation of expectation research. (2 marks)

A psychologist wanted to investigate theory of mind in adults with high-functioning autism. The psychologist decided to carry out some interviews and one of the questions asked the participants how they felt if they saw a close friend or relative who was very upset.

17 Briefly explain how the psychologist could have used content analysis to analyse the qualitative data collected in this investigation. (2 marks)

18 Explain one strength of using content analysis to analyse the qualitative data collected in this investigation. (2 marks)

19 Discuss Piaget's theory of cognitive development. (16 marks)

Section C: Schizophrenia or Eating Behaviour or Stress

Topic: Eating Behaviour

CHOOSE ONE TOPIC FROM SECTION C. ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS ON THE TOPIC YOU CHOOSE.

- 26 Outline family systems theory. Explain one limitation of family systems theory as an explanation for anorexia nervosa. (6 marks)

A researcher investigated Stress inoculation therapy as a method of dealing with stress. The participants were assessed by the researcher before and after they took part in the programme of 10 sessions which focused on helping them to deal more effectively with stressors. The researcher rated them out of 10 for their ability to cope with stress (where 10 means they cope extremely badly and 1 means they cope really well). Before the programme started the median score was 7.5 and after the programme had finished the median score was 5.5.

- 27 What level of measurement has been used in this investigation? (1 mark)
- 28 Calculate the percentage decrease in the average ratings. Show your workings. Give your answer to three significant figures. (4 marks)
- 29 The researcher was concerned about the validity of the investigation. Suggest one possible modification the researcher could make to the investigation and explain how this might improve the validity. (3 marks)
- 30 Discuss one strength of cognitive theory as an explanation for anorexia nervosa. (2 marks)

Linda knows that she needs to lose weight but finds it really difficult. When she tried to cut down on how much she eats this causes her to feel really low, and eating sugary foods such as sweets and chocolate seem to make her feel better. Linda really enjoys eating and the sight or the smell of food can make her feel happy.

- 31 Discuss neural explanations for obesity. Refer to Linda's experiences in your answer. (8 marks)

Section D: Aggression or Forensic psychology or Addiction

Topic: Aggression

CHOOSE ONE TOPIC FROM SECTION D. ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS ON THE TOPIC YOU CHOOSE.

- 38 Which **two** of the following statements about neural and hormonal mechanisms in aggression are correct?
- A The limbic system is a structure within the cortex of the brain that is linked to aggression.
- B Testosterone is an androgen linked to aggression in several species.
- C Increased levels of serotonin can lead to reduced control over impulsive behaviour leading to aggression.
- D The amygdala plays a key role in how humans and animals react to environmental stressors.
- E Testosterone is only found in males, which is why they are more aggressive than females.
- (2 marks)

- 39 Explain what is meant by disinhibition in relation to media influences on aggression. (3 marks)

A psychologist was interested in the effects of disinhibition on aggression in males after playing video games that show violence being rewarded. The participants were allowed to play either a game that showed violence being rewarded or a game that showed violence being punished. They were then observed for 30 minutes in a waiting area, where a male confederate deliberately provoked them. The psychologist recorded instances of gestures, behaviours or verbalisations that indicated aggression.

- 40 The psychologist wanted to ensure that the observations were reliable. Explain how the reliability of observations could be assessed. (4 marks)

The staff at John's nursery are worried about his behaviour as he has recently started to get very angry if the other children are playing with the toys that he would like to play with. This anger has resulted in him trying to hit or kick another child on a number of occasions. When the teacher spoke to John's mother she just said 'boys need be tough' and that 'his older brother has a worse temper and is even more aggressive than John'.

- 41 Referring to John's mother's comments, explain how social learning could be responsible for John's aggression. (4 marks)

42 Explain one limitation of ethological explanations of aggression.

(3 marks)

43 Discuss dispositional explanations for institutional aggression in the context of prisons.

(8 marks)

SAMPLE

AQA A Level
PSYCHOLOGY
7182/3

Paper 3 Issues and options in psychology
Mark scheme

SAMPLE

Section A: Issues and debates in psychology

- 1 Which two of the following statements about determinism are **false**? (2 marks)
- A Soft determinism suggests that although all behaviour has causes, people do have some conscious mental control.
 - B Determinism is the view that our behaviour is shaped by internal rather than external forces.
 - C Hard determinism proposes that free will has no place in explaining behaviour.
 - D Hard determinism is compatible with the aims of science.
 - E Psychic determinism is an example of soft determinism.

Marks for this question: AO1 = 2

A and E

SAMPLE

2 Explain one strength and one limitation of a holistic approach in psychology.

(4 marks)

2 marks for a clear and coherent strength of taking a holistic approach in psychology (e.g. taking a holistic approach allows researchers to assess multiple factors that might contribute to a psychological problem. For example, if someone is depressed, taking a holistic approach you could consider their physical health, their social relationships, any negative experiences they might have had, which should lead to a more complete and global understanding.).

Or

1 mark for a vague or muddled strength of taking a holistic approach in psychology (e.g. It allows a researcher to look at a number of factors that might influence a behaviour which improves understanding.).

Or

0 marks for a strength which includes nothing of relevance

Plus

2 marks for a clear and coherent limitation of taking a holistic approach in psychology (e.g. Because holistic approaches involve assessing a number of factors that influence a behaviour, it can be difficult to establish which is the most important. This makes it difficult to decide which to focus on in order to develop a therapy or intervention.).

Or

1 mark for a vague or muddled limitation of taking a holistic approach in psychology (e.g. Holistic approaches focus on multiple causes of a behaviour, which makes them more difficult to apply in the real world).

Or

0 marks for a limitation which includes nothing of relevance

POSSIBLE STRENGTHS:

- ➔ Taking a holistic approach allows researchers to assess multiple factors that might be responsible for a behaviour, leading to a more detailed and global understanding.
- ➔ Holism looks at the 'big picture' and allows researchers to provide fully inclusive answers to difficult questions about how people think, feel, and behave.

POSSIBLE LIMITATIONS:

- ➔ Holistic experiments tend not to lend themselves to rigorous scientific testing and can become vague and speculative as they become more complex.
- ➔ Because holistic approaches focus on multiple causes this can make it difficult to decide what to focus on to provide a therapy or intervention.

Credit other relevant strengths or limitations.

3 Briefly explain what is meant by alpha bias in psychological research.

(2 marks)

Marks for this question: AO1 = 2

2 marks for a clear and coherent explanation of what is meant by alpha bias in psychological research.
1 mark for a limited or muddled explanation.

POSSIBLE CONTENT:

- ➔ Alpha bias is where research exaggerates differences between males and females.
- ➔ Leading to one gender (typically females) being devalued in some way.

SAMPLE

Tina and John are discussing their 5-year old daughter Sarah. Tina tells John that some of Sarah's behaviours are just like his. The way that she has to have the last word in an argument and some of her facial expressions are exactly the same as John's. Tina says she thinks that this must be due to genetic factors, but John says that Sarah could have learned them through spending so much time with him. However, Tina points out that Sarah spends more time with her than she does with John, so surely Sarah's behaviours and facial expressions should be more similar to hers.

4 Discuss the relative importance of heredity and environment in determining behaviour. Refer to the conversation of Tina and John in your answer. (16 marks)

Marks for this question: AO1 = 6 marks, AO2 = 4 marks and AO3 = 6 marks

LEVEL	MARKS	DESCRIPTION
4	13-16	Knowledge of the relative importance of heredity and environment in determining behaviour is accurate and generally well detailed. Application is effective. Discussion is thorough and effective. Minor detail and/or expansion of argument is sometimes missing. The answer is clear, coherent and focused. Specialist terminology is used appropriately.
3	9-12	Knowledge of the relative importance of heredity and environment in determining behaviour is evident but there are occasional inaccuracies/omissions. Application/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 the relative importance of heredity and environment in determining behaviour is present. Any discussion/application 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 the relative importance of heredity and environment in determining behaviour is very limited. Application/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:

- ➔ Debate about the relative importance of heredity (nature) and environment (nurture) in determining behaviour.
- ➔ Nature side of the debate assumes heredity and genes more influential. Founded in nativist theory that knowledge/abilities are innate. Demonstrated by higher concordance rates for MZ twins and heritability coefficients.
- ➔ Nurture side of the debate assumes the environment is more influential. Founded in empiricist

theory. Locke's idea of the mind as a blank slate or 'tabula rasa' on which experiences are written.

- ➔ Knowledge of interactionism.

Credit knowledge of relative importance heredity or environment embedded in examples.

POSSIBLE APPLICATION:

- ➔ Sarah may have inherited some of her behaviours and mannerisms (e.g. facial expressions) from her father as she shares 50% of her genes. Therefore, the behaviours are influenced by nature rather than nurture.
- ➔ This would explain why she is more like her father than her mother, even though she spends more time with her mother so potentially should have learned more of her behaviours.
- ➔ Sarah could have learned her father's behaviours and mannerisms through observation and imitation. Therefore, they are influenced by nurture rather than nature.
- ➔ If Sarah observed her father getting the last word in an argument and winning the argument then this would provide vicarious reinforcement, leading Sarah to imitate the behaviour in order to win the argument.
- ➔ Rather than nature or nurture, the interactionist approach may be able to explain Sarah being more like her father than her mother. She may have inherited some of her father's tendencies (e.g. to be argumentative), but then been positive reinforced when she has shown them, leading her to repeat the behaviour.

POSSIBLE DISCUSSION POINTS:

- ➔ Evidence to support or contradict the importance of heredity (nature) or environment (nurture). For example, evidence from twin studies, family studies, adoption studies and studies of learning.
- ➔ Implications of accepting either nature (heredity) or nurture (environment) as the primary cause of behaviour.
- ➔ Discussion of the alternative interactionist view and any evidence to support it.
- ➔ Discussion of gene-environment interactions (Scarr and McCartney, 1983).
- ➔ Discussion of the role of epigenetics.
- ➔ Plomin's theory of niche picking.

Credit other relevant information.

SAMPLE

More Psychology resources and support at:
www.tutor2u.net/psychology



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ALevelPsychStudentGroup