

General Certificate of Education
June 2006
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



PSYCHOLOGY (SPECIFICATION A)
Unit 3 Social Psychology and Research Methods

PYA3

Thursday 25 May 2006 1.30 pm to 2.30 pm

For this paper you must have:

- an 8-page answer book

Time allowed: 1 hour

Instructions

- Use blue or black ink or 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 PYA3.
- In Section A answer **one** question. You should attempt **all** parts of the question you choose.
- In Section B answer the question. You should attempt **all** parts of the question.
- Do all rough work in the answer book. Cross through any work you do not want marked.
- Where the term **research** appears in a question, you may refer to theories and/or studies as appropriate.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 62.
2 of these marks are for the Quality of Written Communication.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers. All questions should be answered in continuous prose. Quality of Written Communication will be assessed in all answers.

SECTION A: SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Answer **one** question from this section.

You should attempt **all** parts of the question you choose.

Where the term **research** appears in a question, you may refer to theories and/or studies as appropriate.

Total for this question: 30 marks

- 1** (a) Explain what is meant by the terms *majority influence* and *minority influence*.
(3 marks + 3 marks)
- (b) Outline findings of research into obedience. (6 marks)
- (c) Outline **two or more** ways in which psychologists deal with ethical issues and consider the effectiveness of these ways of dealing with ethical issues. (18 marks)

Total for this question: 30 marks

- 2** (a) Explain what is meant by the terms *informed consent* and *protection from psychological harm*.
(3 marks + 3 marks)
- (b) Describe the aims and findings of **one** study of majority influence. (6 marks)
- (c) ‘Sometimes people obey authority, but sometimes people resist it.’

Discuss what research into obedience tells us about why people obey, **and** how people might resist obedience. (18 marks)

SECTION B: RESEARCH METHODS

Answer the question from this section.

You should attempt **all** parts of the question.

Total for this question: 30 marks

- 3** A primary school teacher thought that her pupils were able to remember more in the morning than in the afternoon. She asked a group of AS psychology students to investigate this.

Before starting their investigation, the psychology students gained consent to carry out their study from the Head Teacher and the children's parents.

The psychology students went into the class and gave all the 5–6 year olds a simple memory test. The first week they gave the memory test just before the morning break (about 11 am). The following week they gave the same 5–6 year olds a similar memory test just after the lunch break (about 1.30 pm). On both memory tests, a high score indicates a good memory.

Table 1 below shows their findings.

Table 1

	Memory test scores from children in the morning	Memory test scores from children in the afternoon
Mean score	14.20	13.90
Standard deviation	1.46	3.23

- (a) What is the *operationalised dependent variable* (DV) in this study? (2 marks)
- (b) Write a non-directional hypothesis for this study. (2 marks)
- (c) The students used a repeated measures design.
- (i) Explain **two** disadvantages of using this type of design. (2 marks + 2 marks)
- (ii) Explain how **one** of these disadvantages could be overcome. (2 marks)
- (d) (i) What is meant by *investigator effects*? (2 marks)
- (ii) How might investigator effects have influenced this study? (2 marks)

Question 3 continues on the next page

Turn over ►

- (e) (i) What is meant by *validity*? (1 mark)
- (ii) Suggest **one** way in which the students might be able to assess the validity of their memory test. (3 marks)
- (f) What is an *extraneous variable*? Suggest why testing the children before their morning break and after their lunch break might result in an extraneous variable. (3 marks)
- (g) Which measure of dispersion was used? Referring to **Table 1**, explain what this measure of dispersion shows about the children's performance. (3 marks)
- (h) The psychology students gained consent from the Head Teacher and the children's parents. Identify **one other** ethical issue that might arise in this study. Explain how the psychology students might deal with this issue. (3 marks)
- (i) Another group of students carried out a similar study using a matched participants design. Suggest how these students could match the participants in their study. (3 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS