



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Level Examination
January 2011

Psychology (Specification A) PSYA4

Unit 4 Psychopathology, Psychology in Action and Research Methods

Wednesday 2 February 2011 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

Time allowed

- 2 hours

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 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, approaches, issues and debates.
- In **Section C**, you should answer **all** questions.
- Do all rough work in the 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 85.
- 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 25 marks.

Where appropriate, refer to theories and/or studies.

Topic: Schizophrenia

- 0 | 1** Outline clinical characteristics of schizophrenia. *(5 marks)*
- 0 | 2** Outline **one** psychological explanation of schizophrenia. *(4 marks)*
- 0 | 3** Evaluate psychological explanations of schizophrenia. *(16 marks)*
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Topic: Depression

- 0 | 4** Outline and evaluate **two or more** psychological therapies for depression. *(9 marks + 16 marks)*
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Topic: Anxiety Disorders

- 0 | 5** Outline clinical characteristics of **either** phobic disorders **or** obsessive compulsive disorder. *(5 marks)*
- 0 | 6** Explain issues associated with the classification **and/or** diagnosis of **either** phobic disorders **or** obsessive compulsive disorder. *(10 marks)*
- 0 | 7** Outline and evaluate **one** psychological explanation for **either** phobic disorders **or** obsessive compulsive disorder. *(4 marks + 6 marks)*

Section B Psychology in Action

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

Each topic carries 25 marks.

Where appropriate, refer to theories and/or studies, approaches, issues and debates.

Topic: Media Psychology

- 0 8** Outline and evaluate **one** psychological explanation of media influence on pro-social behaviour. *(4 marks + 4 marks)*
- 0 9** In a study, researchers investigated celebrity worship in young people. They sent two questionnaires to several hundred university students. One questionnaire measured attitudes to celebrity and the other questionnaire measured self-esteem. The researchers analysed the completed questionnaires and found a significant correlation between low self-esteem and high levels of celebrity worship.
- Explain **one** methodological **and one** ethical issue that might have arisen in this study. *(2 marks + 2 marks)*
- 1 0** Discuss **one or more** explanations for the effectiveness of television in persuasion. *(5 marks + 8 marks)*

Section B continues on the next page

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Topic: The Psychology of Addictive Behaviour

- 1 1** Outline and evaluate the biological model as an explanation for the maintenance of **one** addictive behaviour. *(4 marks + 4 marks)*
- 1 2** 'The more young people see smoking in cinema and TV films, the more likely they are to start smoking themselves.'
- Use your knowledge of research into the role of media in addictive behaviour to explain why such films might encourage young people to start smoking. *(4 marks)*
- 1 3** Discuss **one** type of intervention aimed at reducing addictive behaviour. *(5 marks + 8 marks)*
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Topic: Anomalistic Psychology

- 1 4** What has research shown about personality factors underlying anomalous experience? *(5 marks)*
- Some researchers consider that there is a link between poor reasoning skills and belief in the paranormal.
- 1 5** Using your knowledge of research in this area, explain why some researchers might think there is a link between poor reasoning and strong belief in the paranormal. *(3 marks)*
- 1 6** To investigate this, a researcher asked participants to complete a reliable and well-validated scale measuring belief in the paranormal. Each participant was then scored on their attempt to solve a set of reasoning problems.
- What is meant by a 'reliable and well-validated' scale? Explain why it is important to use such a scale when measuring paranormal beliefs. *(2 marks + 2 marks)*
- 1 7** Apart from poor reasoning skills, explain how **one other** cognitive factor is linked to belief in the paranormal. *(3 marks)*
- 1 8** Discuss methodological issues in the study of psychokinesis. *(4 marks + 6 marks)*

Section C Psychological Research and Scientific Method

Answer **all** questions in this section.

This topic carries 35 marks.

Topic: Psychological Research and Scientific Method

A teacher has worked in the same primary school for two years. While chatting to the children, she is concerned to find that the majority of them come to school without having eaten a healthy breakfast. In her opinion, children who eat 'a decent breakfast' learn to read more quickly and are better behaved than children who do not. She now wants to set up a pre-school breakfast club for the children so that they can all have this beneficial start to the day. The local authority is not willing to spend money on this project purely on the basis of the teacher's opinion and insists on having scientific evidence for the claimed benefits of eating a healthy breakfast.

1 | 9 Explain why the teacher's personal opinion cannot be accepted as scientific evidence. Refer to some of the major features of science in your answer. *(6 marks)*

A psychologist at the local university agrees to carry out a study to investigate the claim that eating a healthy breakfast improves reading skills. He has access to 400 five-year-old children from 10 local schools, and decides to use 100 children (50 in the experimental group and 50 in the control group). Since the children are so young, he needs to obtain parental consent for them to take part in his study.

2 | 0 The psychologist used a random sampling method. Explain how he could have obtained his sample using this method. *(3 marks)*

2 | 1 Explain limitations of using random sampling in this study. *(3 marks)*

2 | 2 Explain why it is important to operationalise the independent variable and the dependent variable in this study and suggest how the psychologist might do this. *(5 marks)*

2 | 3 The psychologist used a Mann-Whitney test to analyse the data. Give **two** reasons why he chose this test. *(2 marks)*

2 | 4 He could have used a matched pairs design. Explain why this design would have been more difficult to use in this study. *(2 marks)*

Section C continues on the next page

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Other than parental consent, identify **one** ethical issue raised in this study and explain how the psychologist might address it. *(2 marks)*

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The psychologist asks some of his students to conduct a separate observational study at the same time on the same group of children. The aim of this observational study is to test the idea that eating a healthy breakfast affects playground behaviour.

Design an observational study to investigate the effects of a healthy breakfast on playground behaviour. Include in your answer sufficient detail to allow for reasonable replication of the study. You should state the hypothesis you are setting out to test.

In your answer, refer to:

- an appropriate method of investigation
- materials/apparatus and procedure.

Justify your design decisions.

(12 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

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