

Teacher Resource Bank

GCE Psychology A

Further Practice Questions:

- PSYA1
- PSYA2



FURTHER PRACTICE QUESTIONS

PSYA1 Cognitive Psychology

- 1 Zac is playing a computer game which involves sorting coloured shapes that appear on the screen. He has to capture the shapes and drag them to the appropriate collection box. While he plays, he chats to Dan about a football match.

When he has completed Level 1, he moves on to Level 2. Here, the shapes are replaced by words that have to be sorted according to their meaning. Zac begins to make mistakes and so stops talking to Dan.

With reference to features of the working memory model, explain why Zac can easily cope with Level 1 and chat to Dan but, when he gets to Level 2, he cannot do both things at the same time. *(6 marks)*

- 2 Below is a table summarising the main differences between short term memory and long term memory. Complete the table.

	STM	LTM
Capacity		
Duration		
Encoding	Mainly acoustic	Mainly semantic

(2 marks)

- 3** It is argued that encoding in STM is mainly acoustic. In an experiment to investigate this, a psychologist compared participants' recall of the following two lists of letters.

List 1 BVTCDGEP

List 2 MRWLZYQA

All participants were read List 1 and then, after recalling List 1, were read List 2 and asked to recall it. The data was recorded in the table below and the number of correctly recalled letters for each list was compared.

- 3 (a)** Examine the letters in each of the lists and explain why the investigator selected the letters in each list. *(3 marks)*
- 3 (b)** For each participant, the number of correctly recalled letters for List 1 and List 2 was entered on a table of results.

Participants	Number of letters recalled from List 1	Number of letters recalled from List 2
1	4	7
2	3	5
3	4	5
4	6	8
5	7	7
6	3	7
7	5	6
8	3	5
9	6	7
10	8	7

- 3 (b) (i)** Explain how you could summarise the findings of this investigation. *(4 marks)*
- 3 (b) (ii)** Explain what the data seem to show. *(4 marks)*
- 3 (c)** Like many studies in cognitive psychology, this was a laboratory experiment involving something the participants were unlikely to do in everyday life. Using your knowledge of research methods, discuss the value of such studies in cognitive psychology. *(8 marks)*

PSYA1 Developmental Psychology

- 1 This is an observation record of an infant's behaviour at a mother and toddler group. Baby G is male, 16 months old.

Mother enters carrying G, sits down in low seat with child on her lap. Hands child rattle. G grasps it, shakes it. Looks at mother (eye contact), throws it on the floor. Mother puts child on floor. G crawls to rattle, picks it up. Returns to mother. Crawls off again, starts to play with toy car. Moves further away. Plays with ball and bricks. Mother gets up and goes to other side of room to talk. G looks round at seat. Looks round (mother out of sight). Crawls to seat fast. Stands up by seat. Starts to cry, looks round, cries louder, sits down next to chair, miserable look. Mother returns, G reaches out to her. Mother cuddles G. G stops crying and cuddles. Crawls a little way off then returns fast with toy. Plays, giving mother toy. Crawls further away and resumes play with bricks.

- 1 (a) Identify the type of attachment displayed by G. Justify your answer by citing evidence from the observation record above. *(4 marks)*
- 1 (b) (i) Explain one ethical problem associated with an observational study of infants such as this. *(3 marks)*
- 1 (b) (ii) Explain one practical problem associated with an observational study of infants such as this. *(3 marks)*
- 1 (c) The researcher recorded observational data from nine other infants in the group. Explain how the researcher would go about doing a content analysis of the data collected. Illustrate your answer by reference to the observation record above. *(4 marks)*

PSYA2 Biological Psychology

- 1** Outline the impact that stress may have on the immune system. *(6 marks)*

- 2** Outline the use of drugs in the control of stress. *(4 marks)*

- 3** “Psychological research has provided evidence to support the view that stress can be caused by life changes. It has also provided evidence of individual differences in response to sources of stress.”

Discuss the view that stress is environmentally determined. *(12 marks)*

PSYA2 Social Psychology

1 It is the first week of Sam's new job. He arrives at work to find the other till operators all drinking coffee in the rest room, even though it is past the store opening time. He knows that this is frowned upon by the management but even so he joins them. Later in the day, he is asked to move from the tills to the shelf-stacking team as they are short staffed. He has not been trained for this, so at first he hangs back and watches what the others do and then follows their lead.

1 (a) From the description of Sam's behaviour above, identify one example of normative social influence. Explain why you think this is an example of normative social influence. (3 marks)

1 (b) From the description of Sam's behaviour above, identify one example of informational social influence. Explain why you think this is an example of informational social influence. (3 marks)

1 (c) Explain the difference between normative and informational social influence. (3 marks)

2 Ali and Nadine are at a peace march in London. Ali has spent much of the day talking to other marchers about their views and beliefs and has agreed to march with them again the following week. Nadine has enjoyed the company of other marchers and is beginning to feel as if she is part of the group. When they discuss marching the next week, she does not commit herself and sign up for the march until she sees that most of the others are going to march again, whereas Ali is one of the first to sign up for the march next week.

Explain how social influence research can help us to understand Ali and Nadine's behaviour. (6 marks)

3 Identify whether each of the statements below represents internal or external locus of control.

- A Children get into trouble because their parents punish them too much.
- B People's misfortunes are the result of the mistakes they make.
- C In the long run, people get the respect they deserve in this world.
- D No matter how hard you try, some people just don't like you.

(4 marks)

4 "Milgram's research is of no value because it was conducted in a laboratory."

Discuss the methodological difficulties faced by social psychologists conducting their research in a laboratory. (5 marks)

5 Outline **two** explanations of obedience to an authority figure. (2 marks + 2 marks)

6 What is meant by *compliance* in the context of conformity research?

Give a real-life example of compliance.

(3 marks)

7 With reference to psychological research, discuss the view that people will not always conform to others in group situations.

(12 marks)

PSYA2 Individual Differences (Psychopathology)

- 1 Describe the use of electro-convulsive therapy in the treatment of mental disorders. (6 marks)
- 2 Describe the use of drugs to treat psychological disorders. (4 marks)
- 3 Discuss the use of drugs to treat psychological disorders. (6 marks)
- 4 Outline one definition of abnormality. (3 marks)
- 5 (a) The following are four approaches to the understanding of mental disorder.
 - A Psychodynamic
 - B Behaviourist
 - C Cognitive
 - D Biological

In the table below, write down which approach, **A**, **B**, **C** or **D**, is associated with each assumption. (3 marks)

Assumptions about abnormality	Approach
People become ill because of negative thoughts	
People become ill due to imbalances of neurotransmitters	
People become ill due to unresolved unconscious conflicts	

- 5 (b) Select **one** of the approaches, **A**, **B**, **C** or **D**, and explain **one** strength of this approach. (3 marks)