

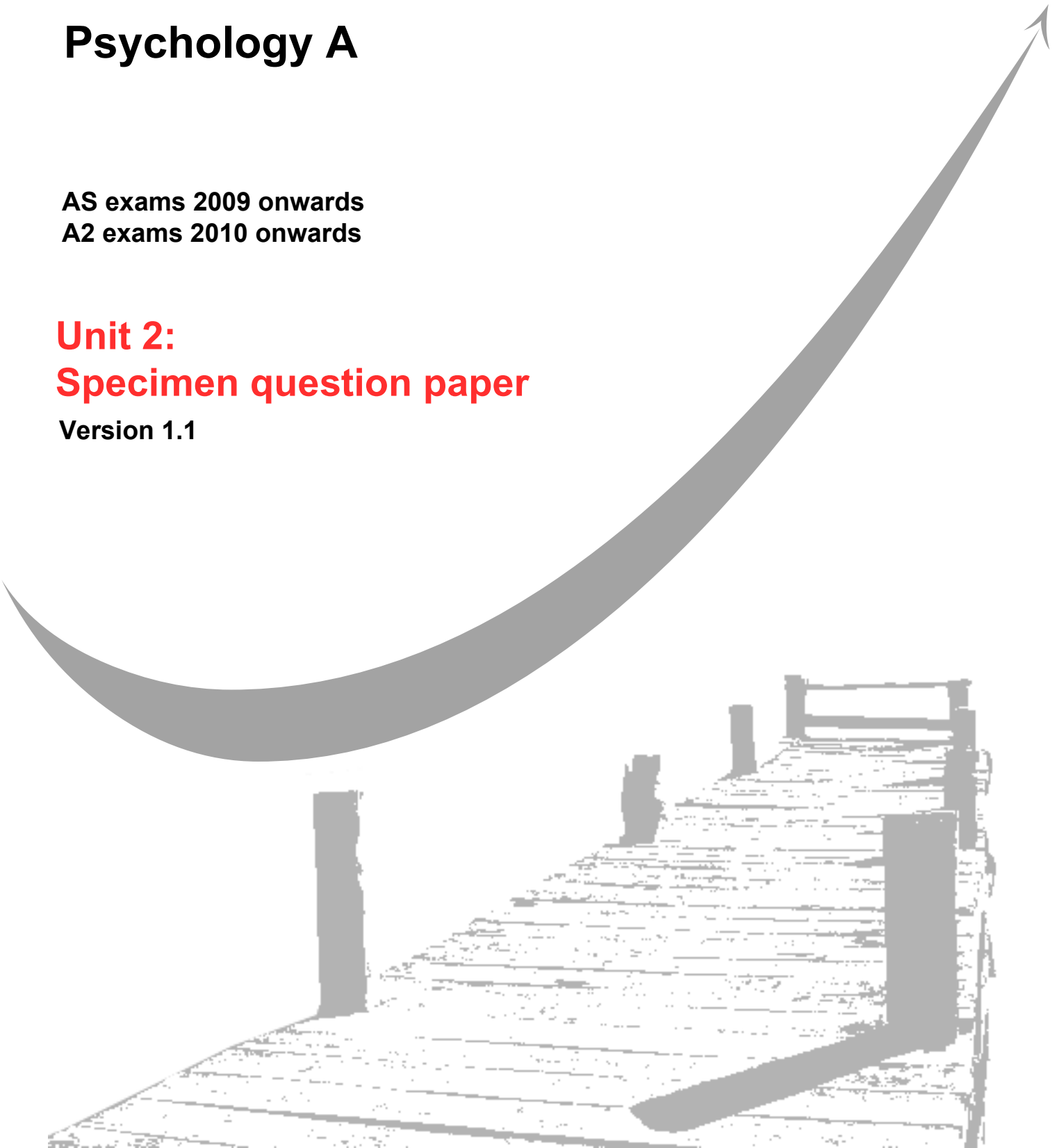
**GCE**  
**AS and A Level**

# **Psychology A**

**AS exams 2009 onwards**  
**A2 exams 2010 onwards**

## **Unit 2:** **Specimen question paper**

**Version 1.1**



Surname					Other Names				
Centre Number					Candidate Number				
Candidate Signature									

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General Certificate of Education  
Specimen Question Paper  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination

**PSYCHOLOGY (SPECIFICATION A)**  
**Unit 2 Biological Psychology, Social Psychology**  
**and Individual Differences**

**PSYA2**



**You will need no other materials.**

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

**Instructions**

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Fill in the boxes at the top of this page.
- Answer **all** questions.
- You must answer the questions in the spaces provided. Answers written in margins or on blank pages will not be marked.
- Do all rough work in this book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

**Information**

- The maximum mark for this paper is 72.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers. Quality of written communication will be assessed in question 7. Question 7 should be answered in continuous prose.

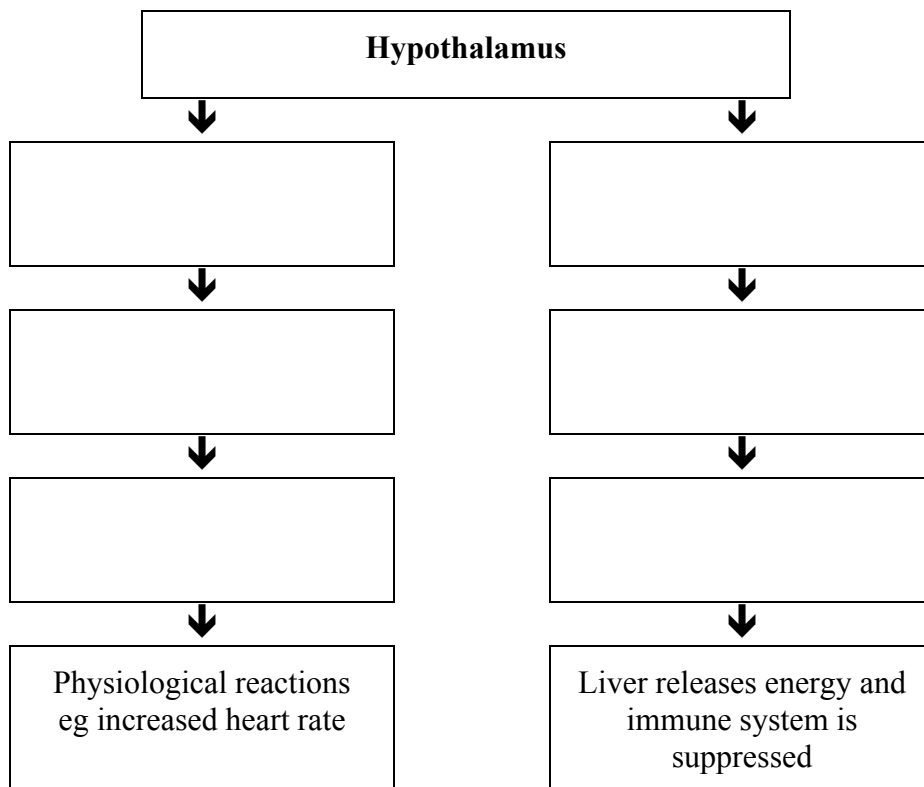
For Examiner's Use			
Number	Mark	Number	Mark
1		7	
2		8	
3		9	
4		10	
5		11	
6			
Total (Column 1)		→	
Total (Column 2)		→	
<b>TOTAL</b>			
Examiner's Initials			

## SECTION A - BIOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY

**Total for this question: 6 marks**

**1** Use the phrases below to complete the diagram, so that it shows the role of the hypothalamus in the body's response to stress.

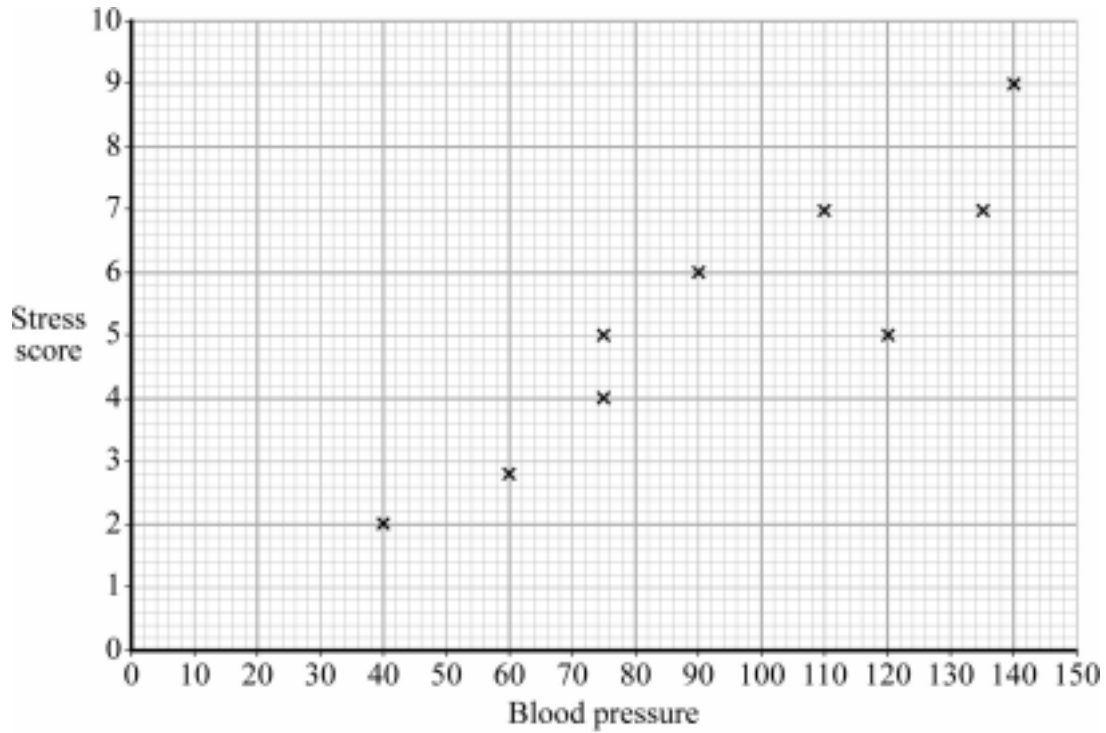
- Gets body ready for 'fight or flight'
- Stimulates the adrenal medulla
- Stimulates the adrenal cortex
- Releases adrenalin
- Releases corticosteroids
- Stimulates the pituitary gland to release ACTH



*(6 marks)*

**Total for this question: 4 marks**

- 2 In a study of stress, the stress and blood pressure of participants were measured. Data from the study were plotted on the graph below.



Outline what the graph seems to show about stress and blood pressure, and explain difficulties in drawing conclusions from this data.

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*(4 marks)*







**Total for this question: 4 marks**

**6** Milgram carried out an experiment investigating obedience. One criticism of this study is that it was unethical. Discuss **one** ethical issue raised by this research.

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*(4 marks)*

**Turn over for the next question**





**SECTION C - INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES**

**Total for this question: 7 marks**

**8** The following are examples of different definitions of abnormality.

- A** The behaviour is very different from the behaviour shown by most people in the population.
- B** The behaviour prevents the person from achieving self-actualisation or personal autonomy.
- C** The behaviour means that the person cannot cope with everyday activities.
- D** The behaviour is very different from behaviour that is generally regarded as acceptable.

(a) In the table below, write down which example **A**, **B**, **C** or **D** matches each of the definitions in the table.

<b>Definition of abnormality</b>	<b>Example of the definition</b>
Failure to function adequately	
Deviation from ideal mental health	
Deviation from social norms	

*(3 marks)*

**8 (b)** Select **two** of the definitions given in the table and explain **one** limitation of each definition.

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*(2+2 marks)*

**Total for this question: 4 marks**

- 9 One assumption of the biological approach to psychopathology is that abnormality is inherited.

Explain **one** way in which psychologists have investigated the genetic basis of abnormality.

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*(4 marks)*

**Total for this question: 6 marks**

**10** Outline key features of the psychodynamic approach to psychopathology.

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*(6 marks)*

**Turn over for the next question**

