



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
January 2009

Psychology (Specification B)

PSYB2

Unit 2 Social Psychology, Cognitive Psychology and Individual Differences

Tuesday 13 January 2009 9.00 am to 10.30 am

For this paper you must have:

- a 12-page answer book.

Time allowed

- 1 hour 30 minutes

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 PSYB2.
- Answer **three** questions.
- Answer **one** question from **Section A**, **one** question from **Section B** and **one** question from **Section C**.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work that you do not want to be marked.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 60.
- Questions 1(d), 2(d), 3(c), 4(c), 5(d) and 6(d) should be answered in continuous prose. You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

SECTION A: SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Answer **one** question from this section.

Each question carries 20 marks.

- 1 (a) One psychological explanation of arousal is evaluation apprehension.

Identify which **two** of the following examples illustrate evaluation apprehension.

- A A cricketer in his first match for his country felt nervous and performed badly because he knew that the television commentators would be discussing his performance.
- B A researcher found that participants took longer to solve problems when they were alone in comparison to when there was a sleeping person in the same room.
- C Male joggers were found to run faster when observed by a female audience.
- D Students sorted cards more accurately when they did this alone rather than when they worked in pairs.

In your answer book, write the **two** letters that are correct from **A, B, C** and **D**.

(2 marks)

- (b) Describe **one** study in which social facilitation was investigated. Indicate why the study was conducted, the procedure used, the results obtained and the conclusion drawn.
- (4 marks)*
- (c) A group of friends has to decide where to go on holiday. Susan wants to go on a sightseeing tour but the majority of the group wants to go on a beach holiday.

Asch investigated different factors that might influence whether or not a person conforms with a group norm. Briefly explain how **two** of these factors might affect whether or not Susan conforms with the group.

(4 marks)

- (d) Discuss Milgram's research into obedience.
- (10 marks)*

2 (a) Some psychologists have suggested that attitudes have three components:

- A the *affective* component;
- B the *behavioural* component;
- C the *cognitive* component.

Identify which component (**A**, **B** or **C**) is illustrated by **each** of the following statements.

- (i) Sarah knows that smoking is bad for her.
 - (ii) David is terrified of spiders. (2 marks)
- (b) Describe **one** study in which prejudice was investigated. Indicate why the study was conducted, the procedure used, the results obtained and the conclusion drawn. (4 marks)
- (c) Psychologists have identified biases that affect the attributions made about behaviour. Seema and Jane have just failed their end-of-term test in psychology.
- (i) Outline how **one** attributional bias might affect the attribution made by Seema about her own failure in the test. (2 marks)
 - (ii) Outline how **one** attributional bias might affect the attribution made by Seema about Jane's failure in the test. (2 marks)
- (d) Discuss how the primacy effect **and** the recency effect might influence how an interviewer forms an impression of a person attending a job interview. Refer to empirical evidence in your answer. (10 marks)

Turn over for the next section

Turn over ►

SECTION B: COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

Answer **one** question from this section.

Each question carries 20 marks.

- 3 (a) Outline what is meant by *retrieval failure*. Briefly explain how it might affect a student's ability to recall information in an examination room after learning the information while in his bedroom. (4 marks)
- (b) In a study of the effect of interference on memory, a researcher tested participants in one of two conditions.

In Condition 1 (no interference), a group of 10 participants learned List A, then sat in silence and finally recalled List A.

In Condition 2 (interference), a different group of 10 participants learned List A, then learned List B, and finally recalled List A.

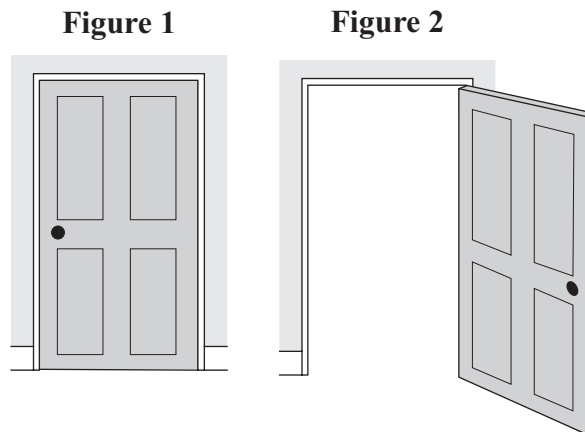
The results were as follows:

Table 1: Mean number of words from List A recalled in Condition 1 (no interference) and Condition 2 (interference)

Condition 1 (no interference)	Condition 2 (interference)
16.3	8.5

- (i) Explain whether or not the results in **Table 1** show that interference took place in this experiment. (2 marks)
- (ii) Explain **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of using a different group of participants in Condition 2 of the experiment. (4 marks)
- (c) Describe and evaluate the working memory model. Refer to empirical evidence in your answer. (10 marks)

- 4 (a) Outline what is meant by *shape constancy*. Refer to **Figure 1** and **Figure 2** in your answer.



(4 marks)

- (b) In a study of the effect of expectation on perception, a researcher tested participants in one of two conditions.

In Condition 1, a group of 10 participants was presented with a list of 7 words associated with footwear. The last word in the list was ambiguous: *clog*.

In Condition 2, a different group of 10 participants was presented with a list of 7 words associated with animals. The last word in this list was the same ambiguous word: *clog*.

The researcher asked each participant to read out the list of words and he noted all the responses to the 7th word.

Table 2: Responses to ambiguous word ‘*clog*’ in Condition 1 (prior presentation with ‘footwear’ words) and Condition 2 (prior presentation with ‘animal’ words)

	Condition 1 (prior presentation with ‘footwear’ words)	Condition 2 (prior presentation with ‘animal’ words)
Response to the 7th word as ‘clog’	9	2
Response to the 7th word as ‘dog’	1	8

- (i) Explain whether or not the results in **Table 2** show that expectation affects perception. (2 marks)
- (ii) Explain **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of using a different group of participants in Condition 2 of the experiment. (4 marks)
- (c) Describe and evaluate Gibson’s bottom-up theory of perception. (10 marks)

Turn over ►

SECTION C: INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

Answer **one** question from this section.

Each question carries 20 marks.

- 5 (a) James is experiencing persistent thoughts about germs. These thoughts are very disturbing and make him feel anxious. He has also started to wash his hands over 40 times a day. His doctor thinks that James is suffering from obsessive-compulsive disorder.
- Explain why the doctor thinks that James has obsessive-compulsive disorder. Refer to the description above in your answer. (3 marks)
- (b) Outline **one** of the biological explanations for obsessive-compulsive disorder. (3 marks)
- (c) (i) Briefly outline a cognitive explanation for obsessive-compulsive disorder. (2 marks)
- (ii) Suggest **one** criticism of the cognitive explanation for obsessive-compulsive disorder. (2 marks)
- (d) Describe how systematic desensitisation might be used to treat a specific phobia such as a phobia of spiders. Evaluate the use of systematic desensitisation to treat phobias. (10 marks)
- 6 (a) Psychologists have suggested that children with autism can be identified by the triad of impairments. What is meant by *the triad of impairments*? (3 marks)
- (b) Outline the neurological correlates explanation of autism. (3 marks)
- (c) (i) An early explanation of autism was cold-parenting. Outline what is meant by *cold-parenting*. (2 marks)
- (ii) Suggest **one** criticism of cold-parenting as an explanation of autism. (2 marks)
- (d) Describe how behaviour modification might be used as a therapy for autism. Evaluate the use of behaviour modification as a therapy for autism. (10 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

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