General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
June 2009

Psychology (Specification B) PSYB2

Unit 2 Social Psychology, Cognitive Psychology and Individual Differences

Specimen paper for examinations in June 2010 onwards
This question paper uses the new numbering system and new AQA answer book

For this paper you must have:
- an AQA 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.
- Choose **three** topics only, **one** topic from **Section A**, **one** topic from **Section B** and **one** topic from **Section C**.
- Answer **all** questions on the topics you choose.
- 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.
- The 10-mark questions you choose should be answered in continuous prose. You are advised to plan your answers. In these questions, you will be marked on your ability to:
  – use good English
  – organise information clearly
  – use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

PSYB2

Section A Social Psychology

There are two topics in this section: Social Influence and Social Cognition.

Choose **one** topic from this section. Answer **all** questions on the topic you choose.

Each topic carries 20 marks.

Topic: Social Influence

A psychologist decided to conduct a study of social facilitation. She asked volunteers to perform either a simple task or a difficult task, with or without an audience. The table below shows each of the four conditions of the study.

	Difficulty of the task	
	Simple task	**Difficult task**
Audience present	**A**	**B**
Audience not present	**C**	**D**

In your answer booklet, write down which condition, **A**, **B**, **C** or **D**,

| 0 | 1 | would be likely to produce the **best** performance; | *(1 mark)* |

| 0 | 2 | would be likely to produce the **worst** performance. | *(1 mark)* |

| 0 | 3 | Briefly discuss **two** effects that high arousal might have on performance. | *(4 marks)* |

| 0 | 4 | Describe **one** study in which obedience was investigated. Indicate why the study was conducted, the method used, the results obtained and the conclusion drawn. | *(4 marks)* |

| 0 | 5 | Discuss Asch's research into conformity. | *(10 marks)* |

Topic: Social Cognition

Two of the statements below are examples of dispositional attributions.

A   Karen's homework is always late because she is so disorganised.

B   Keira fell over because the pavement was uneven.

C   I fell over because Tony pushed me.

D   Charlie passed the exam because he is very clever.

| 0 | 6 | In your answer book, write down the **two** letters from **A**, **B**, **C** or **D** that are examples of dispositional attributions. *(2 marks)*

| 0 | 7 | Steven won his semi-final tennis match but was beaten in the final. He explained the difference in his performance by saying, "I played really well in the semi-final, but the sun was always in my eyes during the final."

Name and explain the type of attributional bias shown by Steven. Refer to Steven's comments in your answer. *(4 marks)*

| 0 | 8 | Describe **one** study in which the primacy effect in impression formation was investigated. Indicate why the study was conducted, the method used, the results obtained and the conclusion drawn. *(4 marks)*

| 0 | 9 | Discuss **two** explanations of prejudice. Refer to evidence in your answer. *(10 marks)*

Turn over for the next section

Section B Cognitive Psychology

There are two topics in this section: Remembering and Forgetting and Perceptual Processes.

Choose **one** topic from this section. Answer **all** questions on the topic you choose.

Each topic carries 20 marks.

Topic: Remembering and Forgetting

| 1 | 0 | According to the multi-store model, there is a short-term memory store and a long-term memory store. Identify **three** differences between these memory stores.   *(3 marks)*

Briefly explain what is meant by:

| 1 | 1 | *semantic memory*;   *(2 marks)*

| 1 | 2 | *procedural memory*.   *(2 marks)*

| 1 | 3 | Psychologists were investigating the levels of processing model of memory. They presented participants with a list of words. After each word, there was a question which the participants had to answer. There were three types of questions:

A   questions about the meaning of the words;

B   questions about the sound of the words;

C   questions about the appearance of the words.

For **each** type of question, **A**, **B** and **C** above, write down the level of processing that is involved in answering the questions.   *(3 marks)*

| 1 | 4 | Discuss how interference **and** retrieval failure can be used to explain forgetting. Refer to evidence in your answer.   *(10 marks)*

Topic: Perceptual Processes

| 1 | 5 | What is meant by *monocular depth cues*? | *(1 mark)* |

| 1 | 6 | What is meant by *binocular depth cues*? | *(1 mark)* |

| 1 | 7 | Identify **three** features of Gibson's theory of visual perception. | *(3 marks)* |

| 1 | 8 | Briefly explain what ambiguous figures tell us about perception. | *(2 marks)* |

| 1 | 9 | In **Figure 1** below, Line A is actually the same length as Line B, although many people perceive it to be longer. Briefly explain this illusion. | *(3 marks)* |

Figure 1: Müller-Lyer illusion

A   B
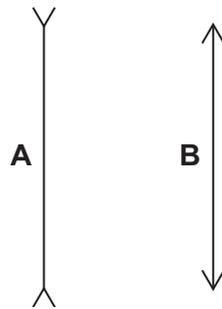
| 2 | 0 | Discuss the influence of motivation **and** culture on perception. Refer to evidence in your answer. | *(10 marks)* |

Turn over for the next section

Section C Individual Differences

There are two topics in this section: Anxiety Disorders and Autism.

Choose **one** topic from this section. Answer **all** questions on the topic you choose.

Each topic carries 20 marks.

Topic: Anxiety Disorders

2 1 Briefly explain **two** reasons why a person who is mildly afraid of something cannot be said to be suffering from a phobia. *(4 marks)*

A researcher studied the effectiveness of treatments for phobias. He compared systematic desensitisation with flooding as treatments for a fear of feathers. Volunteers were treated with systematic desensitisation **or** flooding. They were then asked to rate their fear of feathers on a scale of 1–10, where 1 meant not at all fearful and 10 meant very fearful.

2 2 Identify the independent variable and the dependent variable in the above study. *(2 marks)*

2 3 Suggest **one** extraneous variable that should have been controlled in this study. Briefly explain why it should have been controlled. *(2 marks)*

2 4 Name and outline the experimental design that the researcher used in this study. *(2 marks)*

2 5 Describe **and** evaluate the behavioural explanation for obsessive-compulsive disorder. *(10 marks)*

Topic: Autism

| 2 | 6 |

Using an example, explain what is meant by *lack of joint attention*. *(4 marks)*

In a study, children with autism were shown stories in a comic-strip format. There were two different stories used in the study.

- Story A did not involve any people.

- Story B did involve people.

Each comic-strip story had four pictures. The task was for each child to place the four pictures of story A in the correct order and then place the four pictures of story B in the correct order. The number of times that the pictures for story A and those for story B were placed in the correct order was recorded.

| 2 | 7 |

Identify the independent variable and the dependent variable in the above study.
(2 marks)

| 2 | 8 |

Identify **one** confounding variable in this study and explain how it could have been controlled. *(2 marks)*

| 2 | 9 |

Name and outline the experimental design that the researcher used in this study.
(2 marks)

| 3 | 0 |

Describe **and** evaluate the genetic explanation for autism. Refer to evidence in your answer. *(10 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page