



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination  
January 2011

## Psychology (Specification B) PSYB2

Social Psychology, Cognitive Psychology and Individual Differences

Wednesday 19 January 2011 9.00 am to 10.30 am

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 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 should be answered in continuous prose. You are advised to plan your answers carefully. In these questions, you will be marked on your ability to:
  - use good English
  - organise information clearly
  - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

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## 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.

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### Topic: Social Influence

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- 0 1** What is meant by a *dominant response*? (2 marks)
- 0 2** Simon has just started to practise gymnastics at a local club. Two days ago he took part in his first competition. There was a large, noisy audience present and, half-way through his performance, Simon forgot his routine.
- With reference to the information above, briefly discuss **two** psychological explanations for Simon's poor performance in the competition. (4 marks)
- 0 3** Describe **one** study of defiance of authority. Indicate why the study was conducted, the method used, the results obtained and the conclusion drawn. (4 marks)
- 0 4** Discuss normative social influence **and** informational social influence as explanations of conformity. Refer to evidence in your answer. (10 marks)
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### Topic: Social Cognition

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- 0 5** What is meant by *stereotyping*? (2 marks)
- 0 6** Aisha arrived early for her job interview and was dressed very smartly. During the interview, she spoke with warmth and friendliness, although not all of her answers were correct. Later that day, Aisha received a telephone call offering her the job.
- Briefly explain how the primacy effect **and** central traits might have affected the impression formed of Aisha in her job interview. Refer to the information above in your answer. (4 marks)
- 0 7** Describe **one** study in which the actor-observer effect was investigated. Indicate why the study was conducted, the method used, the results obtained and the conclusion drawn. (4 marks)
- 0 8** Discuss **two** explanations of prejudice. Refer to evidence in your answer. (10 marks)

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## 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.

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### Topic: Remembering and Forgetting

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In a study of coding in short-term memory, participants were given lists of words to learn. An independent groups design was used. There were two conditions.

#### Condition A

The list contained words that sounded similar to each other (man, mad, cap, can, map...).

#### Condition B

The list contained words that sounded different from each other (pen, day, few, sup, cow...).

After 20 seconds, the participants were required to recall the words in the same order as on the list. The mean number of words recalled in the correct order in each condition was compared.

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|-------|---|
| 0   9 | Identify the independent variable <b>and</b> the dependent variable in this study. (2 marks)              |
| 1   0 | What is meant by an <i>independent groups design</i> ? (1 mark)   |
| 1   1 | Outline <b>one</b> advantage of using an independent groups design. (2 marks)                             |
| 1   2 | Use your knowledge of short-term memory to explain the likely outcome of this study. (3 marks)            |
| 1   3 | Briefly explain <b>one</b> limitation of the multi-store model of memory. (2 marks)                       |
| 1   4 | Describe and evaluate <b>two</b> explanations of forgetting. Refer to evidence in your answer. (10 marks) |

**Turn over for the next Topic**

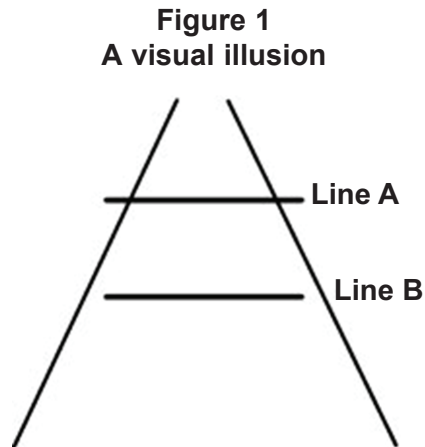
**Turn over ►**

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**Topic: Perceptual Processes**

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In a study of perception, participants were asked to look at **Figure 1** below. In this figure, **Line A** and **Line B** are the same length.



An independent groups design was used. There were two conditions.

**Condition A**

Participants were asked to estimate the length of **Line A**, in millimetres.

**Condition B**

Participants were asked to estimate the length of **Line B**, in millimetres.

The mean estimates of length for **Line A** and **Line B** were compared.

- 1 | 5** Identify the independent variable and the dependent variable in this study. (2 marks)
- 1 | 6** Explain why it is essential that **Line A** and **Line B** are exactly the same length. (3 marks)
- 1 | 7** Use your knowledge of perceptual processes to state the likely result of this study.  
Explain your answer. (3 marks)
- 1 | 8** Briefly explain what studying ambiguous figures, such as the Necker cube and Rubin's vase, tells us about perception. (2 marks)
- 1 | 9** Describe and evaluate Gibson's theory of visual perception. Refer to evidence in your answer. (10 marks)

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### 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.

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#### Topic: Anxiety Disorders

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- 2 | 0** In the context of anxiety disorders, what is meant by an *obsession*? (1 mark)
- 2 | 1** In the context of anxiety disorders, what is meant by a *compulsion*? (1 mark)
- 2 | 2** Outline the psychodynamic explanation of obsessive-compulsive disorder. (3 marks)
- 2 | 3** Briefly discuss **one** limitation of the psychodynamic explanation of obsessive-compulsive disorder. (3 marks)
- 2 | 4** Explain what is meant by a *phobia*. (2 marks)
- 2 | 5** Describe and evaluate **at least two** treatments that have been used with people who have phobias. (10 marks)
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#### Topic: Autism

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- 2 | 6** What behaviours might be absent in a child who lacks joint attention? (2 marks)
- 2 | 7** What is meant by a *central coherence deficit*? (3 marks)
- 2 | 8** Outline and briefly discuss the genetic explanation of autism. (5 marks)
- 2 | 9** Discuss **at least two** therapeutic programmes for autism. Refer to evidence in your answer. (10 marks)

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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