Psychology (Specification B)   PSYB2

Social Psychology, Cognitive Psychology and Individual Differences

Tuesday 17 January 2012   1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

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.

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

| 0 | 1 | What is meant by *normative social influence*? *(2 marks)*

| 0 | 2 | Andrea has recently started a new job and on her first day at work she noticed that all her colleagues were much more smartly dressed than she was.

Explain the likely effect of normative social influence on Andrea's behaviour. *(2 marks)*

| 0 | 3 | Identify **two** factors that have been shown to affect obedience to authority. Briefly discuss how **each** of these factors affects obedience to authority. *(6 marks)*

| 0 | 4 | Aimee and Mia are waiting to play their violins in the school concert. Aimee says: "Oh dear, I think I play badly in front of an audience." Mia says: "Really? I quite like it."

Discuss **at least two** reasons why performance on a task might be affected by the presence of an audience. Refer to evidence in your answer. *(10 marks)*

Topic: Social Cognition

| 0 | 5 | What is meant by the *adaptive* function of an attitude? *(2 marks)*

| 0 | 6 | Michael is hoping to do well in his career and is keen to be promoted.

Briefly explain how the adaptive function of an attitude might result in a change in Michael's behaviour at work. *(2 marks)*

| 0 | 7 | Identify **two** factors that have been shown to affect impression formation. Briefly discuss how **each** of these factors affects impression formation. *(6 marks)*

| 0 | 8 | Describe **at least two** attributional biases. Discuss how these biases might affect our perceptions of the causes of behaviour. Refer to evidence in your answer. *(10 marks)*

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

| 0 | 9 | Distinguish between *procedural* memory and *semantic* memory. *(3 marks)*

| 1 | 0 | Outline **two** features of the working memory model. *(2 marks)*

| 1 | 1 | Choose **one** study of the working memory model. Briefly outline what the participants were asked to do in this study. *(2 marks)*

| 1 | 2 | Explain **one** strength of the working memory model. *(3 marks)*

| 1 | 3 | Discuss displacement **and** retrieval failure as explanations of forgetting. Refer to evidence in your answer. *(10 marks)*

Topic: Perceptual Processes

| 1 | 4 | What is a *distortion illusion*? Identify **one** distortion illusion and explain what it tells us about perception. *(3 marks)*

| 1 | 5 | Outline **two** Gestalt principles. *(2 marks)*

| 1 | 6 | Choose **one** study of perceptual set. Briefly outline what the participants were asked to do in this study. *(2 marks)*

| 1 | 7 | Explain **one** limitation of investigations into perceptual set. *(3 marks)*

| 1 | 8 | 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.

Topic: Anxiety Disorders

A researcher wanted to investigate the effectiveness of a cognitive therapy as a treatment for obsessive-compulsive disorder in children. Before the therapy started, the mothers of 10 children with obsessive-compulsive disorder each rated the anxiety of their child. They used a rating scale of 1–10, where 1 meant not at all anxious and 10 meant extremely anxious. Each child then attended a programme of therapy. At the end of the programme, each mother rated her child again, using the same anxiety scale. The scores for each child before and after therapy were used to calculate a median anxiety rating.

The data are shown in **Table 1** below.

Table 1 Median ratings of children's anxiety before and after therapy

	Before therapy	**After therapy**
Median rating of anxiety	8.5	4.0

| 1 | 9 | Identify **two** symptoms of obsessive-compulsive disorder. | *(2 marks)* |

| 2 | 0 | Name and outline the experimental design used in this study. | *(2 marks)* |

| 2 | 1 | Explain **one** advantage of this experimental design. | *(2 marks)* |

| 2 | 2 | Explain what the median ratings in **Table 1** indicate about the effectiveness of the cognitive therapy programme. | *(2 marks)* |

Sammy has a phobia of birds. This started when he was three years old. A seagull frightened him when it swooped down and stole his sandwich as he was eating it.

Sammy is now eight years old. He is scared when walking to school and is so afraid of birds that he will not play outside.

| 2 | 3 | Use your knowledge of the behavioural explanation of phobias to outline how Sammy's phobia might have developed. | *(2 marks)* |

| 2 | 4 | Describe and evaluate systematic desensitisation as a treatment for phobias. Refer to Sammy in your answer. | *(10 marks)* |

Topic: Autism

A researcher wanted to investigate the effectiveness of a language therapy for children with autism. Before the therapy started, the mothers of 10 children with autism each rated the verbal interaction of their child. They used a rating scale of 1–10, where 1 meant very poor verbal interaction and 10 meant very good verbal interaction. Each child then attended a programme of language therapy. At the end of the programme, each mother rated her child again, using the same verbal interaction scale. The scores for each child before and after therapy were used to calculate a median verbal interaction rating.

The data are shown in **Table 2** below.

Table 2 Median ratings of children's verbal interaction before and after therapy

	Before therapy	**After therapy**
Median rating of verbal interaction	4.0	8.5

| 2 | 5 | Identify **two** symptoms of autism **other than** poor verbal interaction. | *(2 marks)* |

| 2 | 6 | Name and outline the experimental design used in this study. | *(2 marks)* |

| 2 | 7 | Explain **one** advantage of this experimental design. | *(2 marks)* |

| 2 | 8 | Explain what the median ratings in **Table 2** indicate about the effectiveness of the language therapy. | *(2 marks)* |

| 2 | 9 | Briefly explain why therapy for children with autism may be more successful when parents are involved. | *(2 marks)* |

| 3 | 0 | Discuss **two** cognitive explanations for autism. Refer to evidence in your answer. | *(10 marks)* |

END OF QUESTIONS

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