

Teacher Resource Bank

GCE Psychology B

Additional Sample Questions: PSYB2



ADDITIONAL SAMPLE QUESTIONS: PSYB2

Please note that the questions in each topic are intended as stand-alone practice questions. There has been no attempt to provide complete units.

Social influence

- 1 Milgram investigated several conditions that influence obedience.
 - (i) Identify **one** condition that can lead to an **increase** in obedience and illustrate this with an everyday example. (2 marks)
 - (ii) Identify **one** different condition that can lead to a **decrease** in obedience and illustrate this with an everyday example. (2 marks)
- 2 The twelve directors of a football club are meeting to decide how much money the club should spend on new players. It will not be easy for them all to agree on a figure. Most of the directors are unwilling to spend more than £10 million. One of the directors, Gary, wants the club to spend £15 million. Another director agrees with Gary.

From the description above, identify **three** psychological factors that might influence conformity. State the likely influence of **each** factor on whether or not Gary will conform to the majority of the group. (6 marks)
- 3 Describe and discuss ethical **and** methodological issues which have arisen in studies of conformity. (10 marks)

Social cognition

- 1 One explanation for prejudice is that some people have an Authoritarian Personality.

Identify **two** features of the Authoritarian Personality. (2 marks)
- 2 Distinguish between the affective and cognitive components of an attitude. Illustrate your answer with an example of **each** component. (4 marks)
- 3 Name and describe **one** type of attributional bias. Illustrate your answer with an example. (4 marks)
- 4 Describe and discuss **at least two** psychological factors which can influence the impressions we form of other people. Illustrate your answer with examples. (10 marks)

Remembering and forgetting

1 What is meant by *displacement* as an explanation for forgetting? (2 marks)

2 Outline what is meant by *episodic memory*. (2 marks)

3 In an experiment on forgetting, one group of participants (**Group A**) was asked to read a list of words carefully.

Immediately afterwards, a similar group of participants (**Group B**) came into the room.

Both groups were then asked to read a second list of words, similar to the first.

Next, both groups were given mental arithmetic problems to solve for ten minutes.

Finally, each participant was asked to write down as many words as he or she could remember from the second list of words.

The results showed that **Group B** participants correctly recalled twice as many words as **Group A**.

(i) Use your knowledge of psychology to explain why **Group B** performed better than **Group A**. (4 marks)

(ii) Explain why the participants were asked to solve mental arithmetic problems before their recall was tested. (2 marks)

4 Describe and discuss the multi-store model of memory. (10 marks)

5 Outline what is meant by the term *semantic memory*. (2 marks)

6 The following examples illustrate three different explanations for forgetting. In each case, write in your answer book whether the example illustrates interference, lack of consolidation or retrieval failure.

A Julie was knocked out during the hockey match, and forgot about the two goals she had scored earlier.

B I used to be really good at snowboarding but now I've started learning to ski, my snowboarding technique has gone downhill.

C Neville forgot a lot of what he had learned in the classroom, because he took the exam in a different room. (3 marks)

7 Describe **one** study in which short-term memory was investigated. Indicate why the study was conducted, the method used, results obtained and conclusion drawn. (4 marks)

8 Discuss how well the levels of processing model explains why we remember some things better than others. Refer to empirical evidence in your answer. (10 marks)

Perceptual Processes

- 1 Explain what is meant by *shape constancy*. (2 marks)
- 2 Outline Gibson's theory of visual perception. (4 marks)
- 3 The diagram below shows an ambiguous figure. It can be seen as an open staircase or as the underside of a staircase.
 - (i) Identify **one** other example of an ambiguous figure, stating in what way it is ambiguous. (2 marks)
 - (ii) Give **one** explanation of what ambiguous figures tell us about visual perception. (2 marks)
- 4 Discuss factors that have been found to influence visual perception. (10 marks)

Anxiety disorders

- 1 Using an example explain what is meant by obsessive-compulsive disorder. (2 marks)
- 2 Use the same example to explain the difference between obsessions and compulsions. (3 marks)
- 3 Briefly discuss one biological explanation of obsessive-compulsive disorder. (3 marks)
- 4 What is a phobia? (2 marks)
- 5 Discuss the use of behavioural therapy in the treatment of phobias. (10 marks)

Autism

- 1 Outline **three** symptoms of autism. (3 marks)
- 2 Briefly explain **one** possible cause of autism. (3 marks)
- 3 Describe **one** study in which autism was investigated. Indicate why the study was conducted, the method used, results obtained and conclusion drawn. (4 marks)
- 4 Outline and evaluate **one** therapeutic programme for autism. Refer to evidence in your answer. (10 marks)