



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Level Examination

## Psychology (Specification B)

## PSYB4

### Unit 4 Approaches, Debates and Methods in Psychology

**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 16-page answer book.

**Time allowed**

- 2 hours

**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 PSYB4.
- Choose **one** option from **Section A**, either **Option A** or **Option B**. Answer **all** questions on the option you choose.
- **All** questions in **Section B** and **Section C** are compulsory.
- Do all rough work in the 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 12-mark questions you choose 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 Approaches in Psychology

There are two options in this section: Option A and Option B

Choose **one** of these options. Answer **all** questions on the option you choose.

Each option carries 20 marks.

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#### Option A

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- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 0 | 1 |
|---|---|

 Outline **two** methodological criticisms of Freud's use of case studies. (4 marks)
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 0 | 2 |
|---|---|

 Matt is a young lawyer who repeatedly loses his temper at work. Deep down, he thinks that others are better able to cope with the pressures of the job.
- Outline how psychologists from **two** of the following approaches might attempt to explain why Matt loses his temper at work:
- behaviourist
  - cognitive
  - psychodynamic. (4 marks)
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 0 | 3 |
|---|---|

 Discuss **two** limitations of the humanistic approach in psychology. Refer to **at least one other** approach in your answer. (12 marks)
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#### Option B

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- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 0 | 4 |
|---|---|

 Explain **one** way in which behaviourists have investigated reinforcement. (4 marks)
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 0 | 5 |
|---|---|

 Briefly discuss **one** difference between the behaviourist approach and the cognitive approach in investigating behaviour. (4 marks)
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 0 | 6 |
|---|---|

 Discuss the biological approach to the understanding of human behaviour. In your answer, refer to **at least two** topics that you have studied in psychology. (12 marks)

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**Section B Debates in Psychology**

Answer **all** questions in this section. This section carries 20 marks.

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0	7
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Outline what is meant by *hypothesis testing* and explain the role of hypothesis testing in scientific research.

(4 marks)

0	8
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Explain what is meant by the nature-nurture debate in psychology.

(4 marks)

0	9
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'Nomothetic and idiographic approaches are both needed for a complete study of psychology.'

Discuss this statement with reference to **at least one** topic area in psychology.

(12 marks)

**Turn over for the next section**

## Section C Methods in Psychology

Answer **all** questions in this section. This section carries 20 marks.

Whilst driving through her local area, a psychologist noticed that boys seemed to play on the road more than girls. She decided to carry out an observational study to test the hypothesis that boys aged 7 to 11 differ from girls aged 7 to 11 in their use of the street for play.

A category system was used for classifying 'use of the street'. There were two categories.

- Playing on the road: this was considered to occur when a child was playing and had at least one foot on the road.
- Playing on the pavement: this was considered to be when a child was playing and had both feet on the pavement. This category also included playing on grass verges and entrances to driveways.

The psychologist conducted observations over a six-week period for a total of 20 hours. Observations always took place on dry afternoons, when children were outside after returning home from school. The observations were carried out at different locations. For each child observed 'playing', and estimated to be within the required age range, the psychologist noted the sex of the child and whether the child was 'on the road' or 'on the pavement'. Each child was placed in one category only.

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

**Table 1: The number of girls and boys aged 7- 11 playing 'on the road' and 'on the pavement'**

	Number playing on the road	Number playing on the pavement
Boys	132	68
Girls	40	46

1	0
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Write a suitable hypothesis for this study.

(2 marks)

1	1
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A *chi*-test was used to analyse the data. The calculated value of *chi*-square ( $x^2$ ) was 8.7. Using **Table 2** below, explain whether or not the result was significant. (2 marks)

$x^2$  must be **equal to or more than** the stated value to be significant.

**Table 2: Critical values of *chi*-square ( $x^2$ )**

Level of significance for two-tailed test				
<i>df</i>	0.1	0.05	0.01	0.001
1	2.706	3.841	6.635	10.831

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- 1 2** Identify **one** factor that the psychologist had to take into account when deciding whether or not to use the *chi*-square ( $\chi^2$ ) test. (1 mark)
- 1 3** The psychologist carried out observations on her own. Identify **one** methodological problem of her working on her own. (1 mark)
- 1 4** Explain how the problem you have identified in your answer to **1 3** might have been addressed if another observer had been involved. (2 marks)
- 1 5** The method used by the psychologist was naturalistic observation.  
Identify and discuss **one** limitation of this method of research. (4 marks)
- 1 6** Having established the pattern of play for boys and girls, the psychologist wanted to explore differences between boys' and girls' understanding of the risks associated with playing in the road.  
Design a study to investigate gender differences in children's understanding of risks associated with playing in the road. Include in your answer sufficient detail to allow for reasonable replication of the study.  
In your answer, refer to:
- an appropriate method of investigation
  - materials/apparatus and procedure.
- Justify your design decisions. (8 marks)

**END OF QUESTIONS**

**There are no questions printed on this page**