

THE CORE STUDIES – G542

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q What format will the paper take?

A Based on the 15 Core Studies

3 Sections:

Section A: *15 short answers (as in old Core Studies 1 paper) – 1 on each study. Each question will be marked out of 4 (4 or 2+2). All questions should be attempted. Total for Section = 60.*

Section B: *This will focus on methodology and/or issues. There will be a choice of 3 studies from which the candidate chooses **ONE**. There will always be 6 parts to the question which will always be progressive in complexity/demands with each part being compulsory. Total for Section = 36 though allocation of marks within the section may vary.*

Section C: *This will focus on approaches and/or perspectives. There will be a choice of 2 questions from which the candidate chooses **ONE**. All parts of the selected question are compulsory. There will always be 4 parts to each question, awarded 2, 4, 6, 12 marks respectively. Total for Section = 24.*

Q What will Section A require?

- A*
- *The wording of the question will imply the content/detail required in the answer. E.g. 'Describe **two** features of ...' requires the identification of 2 features + elaboration so will be worth 4 marks (2+2), whereas 'Identify **two** features of ...' Requires the mere identification of 2 appropriate features with no elaboration so will be worth 2 marks (1+1).*
 - *The answer should always be linked to the study named in the question. Failure to do so will be considered a partial answer and will not receive full marks.*
 - *Section A questions are to be considered as equivalent to the questions asked in the legacy Core Studies 1 paper.*

Q What will Section B require?

- A*
- *All parts (a-f) should be answered in relation to the study selected from the 3 offered. Therefore if a candidate is asked to give advantages and disadvantages of a named methodology/issue (e.g. observation), any advantage and disadvantage can be identified but should be supported by evidence from the selected study. This is similar to part (b) of questions in the legacy Core Studies 2 paper.*

Q What will Section C require?

- A
- *Candidates will be expected to have a 'working knowledge' of the 5 approaches and 2 perspectives identified in the Specification. They will need to know general assumptions, strengths/advantages, weaknesses/disadvantages, contributions to psychology and common methods of investigation relevant to each approach/perspective; and be able to support these with appropriate evidence.*
 - *Candidates will need to know which studies **can** be considered under each approach/perspective and why.*
 - *Additional bona fide psychological studies can be cited in this Section e.g. Asch + Social Approach, Gardner and Gardner + Cognitive Approach, though this will not be expected. However knowledge of other research on which a particular study is based will be expected e.g. Piaget's research as it links with the Samuel and Bryant study + Developmental Approach.*