



General Certificate of Education

Health and Social Care 8621/8623

HC10 Psychological Perspectives

Report on the Examination

2007 examination - June series

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HC10 Psychological Perspectives

Principal Moderator's Report

Candidates are required to demonstrate the relevance of **several** psychological perspectives to their chosen topic area. The specification identifies four possible perspectives for exploration. It should be noted that the psychodynamic perspective is not one of them.

Descriptions of perspectives were sometimes unclear. For example, there was some confusion between Social Learning Theory (a development of the Behaviourist Perspective based on observation, vicarious reinforcement and imitation involving cognitive processes) and the Social Influence Perspective (based on conformity).

As in previous years there was some confusion regarding the Cognitive Perspective.

Many candidates were not completely successful in their attempts to use **everyday examples** to explain the perspectives.

Most candidates chose suitable topics although some would have benefited from some additional guidance as there is no doubt that some topics lend themselves to the task more readily than others. Most candidates chose relevant perspectives.

Research studies were sometimes described poorly (this was especially true of evidence collected by candidates). Without a comprehensive description of: aims, procedures and findings, it is impossible to draw conclusions about the implications of the study in relation to the relevant perspective and the chosen topic. Similarly, without a full description of a research study, critical evaluation is impossible. Approximately half of the marks available are for Sections C and D of the report yet most candidates devoted considerably less time to these sections than to Section B. This imbalance should be addressed.

Section E of the report should include a list of references in the **conventional form**. Many candidates included their source material in the form of printouts from the internet and photocopied pages from magazines, journals and text books. This is not necessary and merely adds bulk. A bibliography is not sufficient.