

General Certificate of Education
June 2007
Advanced Level Examination



PSYCHOLOGY (SPECIFICATION B) PYB5
Unit 5 Perspectives, Debates and Methods in Psychology

Wednesday 20 June 2007 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm

For this paper you must have:

- a 16-page answer book.

You may use a calculator.

Time allowed: 2 hours

Instructions

- Use blue or black ink or 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 PYB5.
- Answer **three** questions.
- Answer **one** question from **Section A**, **one** question from **Section B** and the **compulsory** question in **Section C**.
- Do all rough work in the answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 60.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- Questions carrying 12 marks should be answered in continuous prose. In these questions, you will be marked on your ability to use good English, to organise information clearly and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

SECTION A: PERSPECTIVES IN PSYCHOLOGY

Answer **one** question from this section.

Each question carries 20 marks.

- 1** (a) Identify and briefly describe **two** divisions of the human nervous system. (4 marks)
- (b) Briefly discuss **one** reason why some psychologists investigate the genetic basis of behaviour. (4 marks)
- (c) Describe and discuss Freud's psychoanalytic theory and **one** post-Freudian theory. (12 marks)
- 2** (a) Use an example of behaviour to explain what cognitive psychologists mean by *mediational processes*. (4 marks)
- (b) What is meant by an *eclectic approach*? Outline **one** strength of adopting an eclectic approach in psychology. (4 marks)
- (c) Wade has returned home late from a difficult day at work. His wife, Mandy, challenges him about why he did not phone to say where he was. Wade loses control and hits Mandy. Wade comes from a violent family and witnessed violence as a child.
- Discuss how psychologists from both the behaviourist perspective **and** the biological perspective might explain Wade's violent behaviour. (12 marks)

SECTION B: DEBATES IN PSYCHOLOGY

Answer **one** question from this section.

Each question carries 20 marks.

- 3 (a) Outline **two** ways in which common-sense explanations of behaviour differ from scientific explanations of behaviour. (4 marks)
- (b) Outline what is meant by *private experience* and explain why such experiences are difficult for psychologists to study. (4 marks)
- (c) Discuss the use of the scientific approach in psychology. Refer to **at least one** topic you have studied. (12 marks)
- 4 (a) Outline **one** strength and **one** weakness of the idiographic approach in psychology. (4 marks)
- (b) Outline why some psychologists favour reductionist explanations of human behaviour. (4 marks)
- (c) The following comment was made by a judge at the end of a trial:
- “People are in control of their behaviour and they are responsible for their actions.”
- Discuss the free will and determinism debate in psychology. Illustrate your answer with reference to **at least one** topic in psychology. (12 marks)

Turn over for the next section

Turn over ►

SECTION C: METHODS IN PSYCHOLOGY

Answer **all** parts of this compulsory question which carries 20 marks.

- 5 A researcher wanted to compare the effectiveness of two therapies for people who had a phobia of flying. A newspaper advertisement was used to recruit a sample of fifty volunteers who were afraid of flying. The participants were randomly allocated to Therapy A (Group 1) or Therapy B (Group 2).

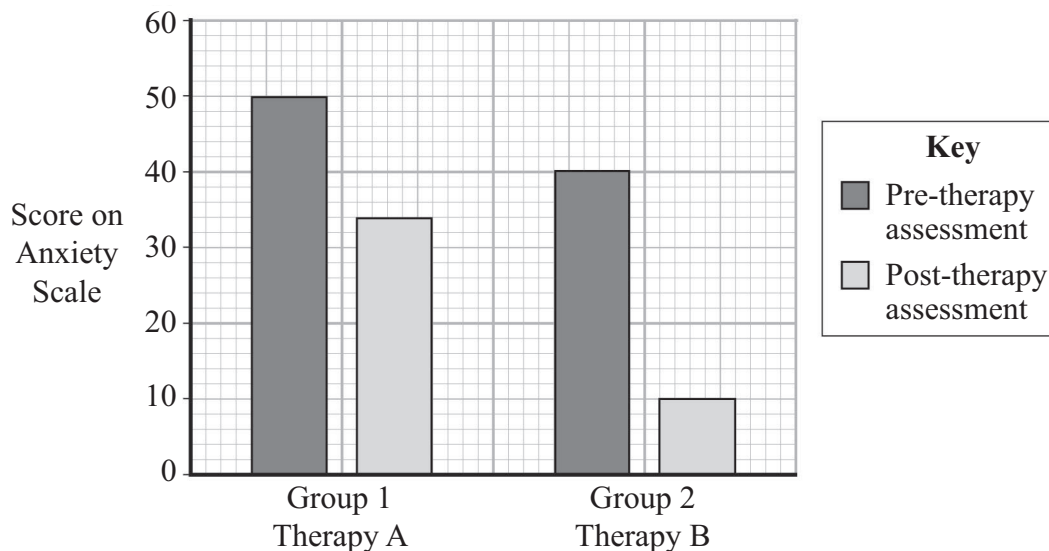
Each participant's anxiety about flying was tested before and after therapy. The assessment involved the use of an Anxiety Scale on which participants were asked to rate how they felt at the time. A high score indicated extreme anxiety and a low score indicated mild anxiety.

For the **pre-therapy assessment** of anxiety about flying, all participants experienced realistic pre-flight conditions in an airport terminal and on board an aircraft. Although participants expected the plane to take off, it remained on the ground. Once the engines were turned off, participants were asked to fill in the Anxiety Scale on board the aircraft.

For the next four weeks, participants attended weekly sessions for either Therapy A or Therapy B. At the end of this period, participants experienced the same procedure as for the pre-therapy assessment and filled in the Anxiety Scale as before. This was the **post-therapy assessment**.

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

Figure 1: Median Anxiety Scale scores before and after therapy for Group 1 (Therapy A) and Group 2 (Therapy B)



- (a) The researcher used volunteers for this study.

Identify **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of using volunteers in psychological research. (2 marks)

- (b) Interpret the data in **Figure 1**. (2 marks)

- (c) The researcher wanted to find out whether there was a significant difference between the post-therapy assessment scores of the two groups. Name an appropriate statistical test that the researcher could have used. Justify your answer. (3 marks)

- (d) (i) What is meant by a *matched pairs design*? (2 marks)

(ii) Briefly explain why it might have been better to have used a matched pairs design in this study. (2 marks)

- (e) (i) Identify **one** variable other than the therapy itself which could have caused the change in Anxiety Scale scores. (1 mark)

(ii) Briefly describe how the design of this study could have been improved to take account of this variable. (3 marks)

- (f) Briefly explain **one** ethical issue raised by this study. (2 marks)

- (g) The research was designed so that levels of anxiety were assessed on board an aircraft.

With reference to this study, briefly discuss **one** advantage of conducting psychological research outside the laboratory. (3 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

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