



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Level Examination  
June 2011

# Psychology (Specification B) PSYB4

## Unit 4 Approaches, Debates and Methods in Psychology

Tuesday 21 June 2011 9.00 am to 11.00 am

**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 your answer book. Cross through any work 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 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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 Explain **two** ways in which psychologists have investigated the genetic basis of behaviour. *(4 marks)*

Sue had been a successful city banker for many years, earning a large salary and bonuses. After seeing a programme on television about a developing country, she decided to resign from her job and offer her services as a voluntary worker. After a few months of voluntary work in the developing country, Sue, at last, felt fulfilled.

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 How might humanistic psychologists explain Sue's change in career. *(2 marks)*

0	3
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 Outline **one** problem with humanistic explanations of behaviour. *(2 marks)*

0	4
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 Amanda has just finished studying the behaviourist approach in psychology and commented to her teacher:

"I am amazed at all the different applications of the behaviourist approach."

Her teacher replied:

"Yes, and we will be covering the cognitive approach next. That has lots of applications too."

Outline the behaviourist and cognitive approaches in psychology and evaluate **at least one** application of **each** approach. *(12 marks)*

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**Option B**

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- 0 5** Explain why some psychologists regard Freud's investigations into the unconscious mind as unscientific. *(4 marks)*
- 0 6** Outline **one** similarity between the theories of Freud and Erikson. *(2 marks)*
- 0 7** Outline **one** difference between the theories of Freud and Erikson. *(2 marks)*
- 0 8** 'There are a number of approaches in psychology. Each approach is valuable in itself, but combining the knowledge and insights of several approaches provides a more complete understanding of behaviour.'
- Discuss this statement. Support your answer with reference to **at least two** topics in psychology. *(12 marks)*

**Turn over for the next section**

**Turn over ►**

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## Section B Debates in Psychology

Answer **all** questions in this section.

This section carries 20 marks.

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 Briefly outline the free will and determinism debate in psychology. Explain **one** reason why a belief in the existence of free will conflicts with scientific enquiry. (4 marks)
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 Briefly discuss strengths of the idiographic approach in psychology. (4 marks)
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 Identify and discuss reasons why psychology should adopt the scientific approach. (12 marks)
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## Section C Methods in Psychology

Answer **all** questions in this section.

This section carries 20 marks.

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A health visitor reported that parents frequently made comments that their baby boys were keen to explore their surroundings. Such comments were rarely made about baby girls.

A psychologist decided to investigate this further. She interviewed the parents of twenty baby boys and twenty baby girls. All babies were aged between twelve and eighteen months. Each parent was interviewed individually for approximately half an hour. The interview contained a set of specific questions about exploratory behaviour. Examples of specific questions were:

*'How does your baby react to a new toy?'*

*'Imagine you are visiting someone with your baby. Describe how your baby behaves if given the freedom to move around the room.'*

The interviews were recorded. Afterwards, the psychologist listened to the recordings. Based on the content of each interview, the psychologist rated each baby's exploratory behaviour on a scale of 1–10. A high score on the scale indicated a lot of exploratory behaviour, and a low score indicated little exploratory behaviour.

The median ratings of exploratory behaviour for the twenty baby boys and twenty baby girls were calculated.

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

**Table 1: Median ratings for exploratory behaviour in baby boys and baby girls**

	Baby boys	Baby girls
Median	7.5	6

**1 | 2** Write a suitable hypothesis for this study. (2 marks)

**1 | 3** Explain what is meant by *qualitative* and *quantitative* data collection. Refer to this study in your answer. (3 marks)

**1 | 4** The psychologist used an inferential statistical test to see whether there was a significant difference between the ratings for exploratory behaviour in baby boys and baby girls.

Name an appropriate statistical test that the psychologist could have used to compare the scores in baby boys and baby girls. Give **one** reason for your answer. (2 marks)

A difference was found at the 10% level ( $p = \leq 0.10$ ).

**1 | 5** What conclusion could the psychologist draw from the results of the statistical analysis? Explain your answer. (2 marks)

**1 | 6** In this study, the psychologist carried out the rating on her own. Explain why it might have been better to have two psychologists rating the recordings. (2 marks)

**1 | 7** The psychologist used the same set of twenty questions with all the parents. Briefly outline **two** advantages of carrying out the interview in this way. (2 marks)

**1 | 8** Design an observational study to investigate differences in the exploratory behaviour of baby boys and baby girls in an unfamiliar room. Include in your answer sufficient detail to enable someone to carry out this study in the future.

It is useful to refer to the following:

- the variables to be considered
- the sample to be used
- materials
- an outline of the proposed procedure.

(7 marks)

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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