

**Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations
Advanced Subsidiary GCE**

PSYCHOLOGY
PSYCHOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

2542

Revised Specimen Paper

Additional materials:
One 8-page answer book;

4-page answer books may be issued to candidates who require continuation paper.

TIME 1 hour

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Write your name, Centre number and candidate number in the spaces provided on the answer paper/answer booklet.
- Answer **all** questions.
- Write your answers on the separate answer paper provided.
- If you use sheets of continuation paper, fasten the sheets securely to the answer book.
- You may use your **Practical Work Folder** when answering questions.
- At the end of the examination you must attach your **Practical Work Folder** to the back of your answer papers.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.
- The total number of marks for this paper is **50**.
- You will be awarded marks for quality of written communication where an answer requires a piece of extended writing.

Answer **all** questions]

SECTION A

Based on Activity A: Questions, self reports and questionnaires.

- 1 Explain the aim of your activity. [2]
- 2 Outline **two** conclusions that can be drawn from your results. [4]
- 3 (a) Suggest an alternative way of finding out the same information. [3]
(b) Suggest how this alternative might affect the validity of your results. [3]

[Total Marks: 12]

SECTION B

Based on Activity B: An observation.

- 4 Describe the categories or coding scheme that you used for your observation. [4]
- 5 Suggest **one** improvement that could be made to your categories or coding scheme. [4]
- 6 Explain how you think this improvement would affect the results of your observation. [4]

[Total Marks: 12]

SECTION C

Based on Activity C: Collection of data to investigate the difference between two conditions.

- 7 Describe the sample that you used for this activity. [3]
- 8 How did you select this sample? [3]
- 9 Explain **one** strength and **one** weakness with the way you selected this sample. [6]

[Total Marks: 12]

SECTION D

Based on Activity D: Collection of data involving two independent measures and analysis using a test of correlation.

- 10 (a) State the **null** hypothesis for your activity. [3]
- (b) Explain how **one** of your variables was measured. [2]
- 11 Sketch an appropriate visual display of your results. [3]
- 12 (a) Outline the conclusion that you reached in relation to your null hypothesis. [3]
- (b) Explain how you reached this conclusion. [3]

[Total Marks: 14]

[Total paper marks: 50]

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REVISED MARK SCHEME

Revised Specimen Paper 2003

SECTION A

Activity A: Questions, self reports and questionnaires.

Question	Description	Mark
1 AO3	<p><i>Explain the aim of your activity.</i></p> <p>Candidates do not need to write a hypothesis for this question – a clearly stated aim of what was under investigation is appropriate.</p> <p>Aim is unclear or vague.</p> <p>Clearly stated aim.</p> <p>Maximum mark</p>	 1 2 2
2 AO2	<p><i>Outline two conclusions that can be drawn from your results.</i></p> <p>2 x 2 marks for each conclusion.</p> <p>Vague or unclear conclusion.</p> <p>Clear conclusion.</p> <p>Maximum mark</p>	 1 2 4
3(a) AO1	<p><i>Suggest an alternative way of finding out the same information.</i></p> <p>Candidates may answer this in a number of ways. They may choose to offer alternative questions/rating scales or they may offer an alternative method such as observation or experiment.</p> <p>Very brief answer, e.g. observation.</p> <p>Increasingly detailed answer.</p> <p>Well explained appropriate alternative.</p> <p>Maximum mark</p>	 1 2 3 3
3(b) AO1	<p><i>Suggest how this alternative might affect the validity of your results.</i></p> <p>Validity – to what extent are you measuring what you claim to measure? Candidates may either choose to explain how their alternative would increase the validity of the results or they may suggest that this would decreased the validity. Either response is appropriate but for 3 marks the candidate must demonstrate that they understand the concept of validity.</p> <p>Muddled or very brief answer.</p> <p>Explanation of how the alternative may affect the results but without a clear demonstration of the understanding of the concept validity.</p> <p>Clear discussion of how the alternative method would affect the validity of the results.</p> <p>Maximum mark</p>	 1 2 3 3

SECTION B

Activity B: An observation

Question	Description	Mark
<p>4</p> <p>AO3</p>	<p><i>Describe the categories or coding scheme that you used for your observation.</i></p> <p>Candidates should give details of the complete coding scheme or categories that they used. For full marks it should be possible to replicate the observation. This would include, where necessary an explanation of the categories.</p> <p>Categories incomplete or muddled.</p> <p>Detailed account of the categories used and including any definitions necessary. Replication would be possible.</p> <p>Maximum mark</p>	<p>1-2</p> <p>3-4</p> <p>4</p>
<p>5</p> <p>AO1</p>	<p><i>Suggest one improvement that could be made to your categories or coding scheme.</i></p> <p>Candidates may suggest modifications to the original categories or additions to the original categories. They may also suggest changes to the use of the scheme such as coding every minute rather than coding every behaviour. The change must be to the categories/coding scheme and not general, e.g. observe for longer.</p> <p>Appropriate change but lacking detail.</p> <p>Well explained appropriate change to categories.</p> <p>Maximum mark</p>	<p>1-2</p> <p>3-4</p> <p>4</p>
<p>6</p> <p>AO1</p>	<p><i>Explain how you think this improvement would affect the results of your observation.</i></p> <p>Appropriate effect discussed but brief or muddled.</p> <p>Increasing well explained effect.</p> <p>Maximum mark</p>	<p>1-2</p> <p>3-4</p> <p>4</p>

SECTION C

Activity C: Collection of data to investigate the difference between two conditions.

Question	Description	Mark
7 AO3	<p><i>Describe the sample that you used for this activity.</i></p> <p>Candidates should give information about the participants for this activity, number of participants, age, sex, status (e.g. students), race etc. Sampling method is not credited in this question.</p> <p>Brief/muddled answer.</p> <p>An attempt to describe the sample including number of participants and at least one other piece of information (age, sex, status, race etc.)</p> <p>A clear description of the sample including number of participants and at least two other pieces of information as above.</p> <p>Maximum mark</p>	 3
8 AO3	<p><i>How did you select this sample?</i></p> <p>Candidates should give information about the sampling method used.</p> <p>Brief/muddled answer.</p> <p>An attempt to explain the sampling method used but some lack of clarity, e.g. method explained but not named.</p> <p>Sampling method identified (e.g. opportunity) and clearly explained.</p> <p>Maximum mark</p>	 3
9 AO1	<p><i>Explain one strength and one weakness with the way you selected this sample.</i></p> <p>Answers might include: Strengths: Convenient, representative; Weaknesses: Lack of generalisability, complex, time consuming etc.</p> <p>Brief/muddled answer.</p> <p>Appropriate strength/weakness identified but not fully explained/applied to this activity.</p> <p>Appropriate strength/weakness explained and applied to this activity.</p> <p>Maximum mark</p>	 6

SECTION D

Activity D: Collection of data involving two independent measures and analysis using a test of correlation.

Question	Description	Mark
10(a) AO3	<i>State the null hypothesis for your activity.</i> A clearly stated null hypothesis should contain a statement of no difference/no effect and both the independent and dependent variable should be clearly identified. Null hypothesis attempted but could be stated more clearly. Clearly stated null hypothesis including both variables. Maximum mark	 1-2 3 3
10(b) AO3	<i>Explain how one of your variables was measured.</i> Brief/muddled answer. Clear description of measurement. Maximum mark	 1 2 2
11 AO3	<i>Sketch an appropriate visual display of your results.</i> Candidates should produce a labelled scattergram. An attempt at an appropriate display but lacking key information. An appropriate and fully labelled visual display. Maximum mark	 1-2 3 3
12(a) AO2	<i>Outline the conclusion that you reached in relation to your null hypothesis.</i> The conclusion should include a statement of whether the null hypothesis was accepted or rejected. Brief/muddled answer. Increasingly appropriate answer but lacking clarity or not explicitly stating whether the null hypothesis was accepted or rejected. A clear conclusion from the activity including a correct statement of whether the null hypothesis was accepted or rejected. Maximum mark	 1 2 3 3

<p>12(b)</p> <p>AO3</p>	<p><i>Explain how you reached this conclusion.</i></p> <p>Candidates should make reference to the statistical test results/probability level in justifying their decision.</p> <p>Brief/muddled answer.</p> <p>An attempt to explain how the conclusion was based on statistical analysis but answer lacks clarity.</p> <p>A clear explanation of how the conclusion was based on the results of the statistical analysis: candidates should make explicit reference to significance or non-significance of statistical test results or to probability levels.</p> <p>Maximum mark</p>	<p></p> <p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>3</p>
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