



GCE A level

1333/01

PSYCHOLOGY – PY3

Research Methods And Issues In Research

A.M. WEDNESDAY, 16 January 2013

1½ hours

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need a 12 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

Answer **all** questions in Section A and Section B and **two** questions from Section C.

Write your answers in the separate answer book provided.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question.

Note the information given at the start of every section.

SECTION A

1. *Read the following material and answer ALL the questions that follow.
You are advised to spend at least 5 minutes reading the information provided.*

A feral child is a human child who has lived isolated from human contact from a very young age. Feral children have little experience of human care, social behaviour and human language. In some cases feral children have been raised by animals.

A case study was carried out on a feral child who had been rescued by aid workers. The child was undernourished but otherwise in good health. The child appeared to have been raised by wild dogs.

- (a) (i) Define what is meant by the term ‘case study’. [2]
 (ii) Explain **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of a case study. [4]
- (b) (i) Define what is meant by the term ‘reliability’. [2]
 (ii) Define what is meant by the term ‘validity’. [2]
- (c) Explain **one** issue of validity that may have arisen in the above study. [2]
- (d) (i) A case study can produce qualitative data. Define what is meant by the term ‘qualitative data’. [2]
 (ii) Explain **one** advantage of qualitative data. [2]
 (iii) Explain **one** disadvantage of qualitative data. [2]
- (e) Researchers believed that if enough feral children could be found then they could carry out a natural experiment to see the effect on these children of being raised by animals. The language skills of the children raised by animals were compared with the language skills of children who had not been raised by animals.
- (i) Define what is meant by the term ‘natural experiment’. [2]
 (ii) Explain **one** advantage of a natural experiment. [2]
 (iii) Explain **one** disadvantage of a natural experiment. [2]
 (iv) Write an appropriate directional hypothesis for this natural experiment. [2]

Total marks 26

SECTION B

2. *Read the following material and answer ALL the questions that follow.
You are advised to spend at least 5 minutes reading the information provided.*

Research has shown that there is a correlation between how long people have been married and their level of happiness. Twenty married people were chosen by systematic sampling and were asked to fill in a questionnaire. The first question asked, “How many years have you been married?”. The second question asked them to rate how happy they were on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being ‘not happy’ and 10 being ‘happy’. A correlation coefficient of +0.85 was found.

- (a) (i) Define what is meant by the term ‘correlation’. [2]
 (ii) Explain **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of using a correlation. [4]
- (b) (i) What is meant by ‘correlation coefficient of +0.85’ (line 5) in the above study? [2]
 (ii) Write an appropriate null hypothesis for the above study. [2]
- (c) Define what is meant by the term ‘operationalised’. [2]
- (d) Identify a statistical test that could be used to analyse the data in the above study and explain **one** reason why this test could be chosen. [2]
- (e) (i) Define what is meant by the term ‘systematic sampling’. [2]
 (ii) Explain **one** disadvantage of using systematic sampling. [2]
- (f) Explain how content validity could be used to ensure validity in psychological research. [2]
- (g) Describe what is meant in psychological research by:
 (i) ‘Use of deception’; [2]
 (ii) ‘Lack of confidentiality’. [2]

Total marks 24

SECTION C

Answer two of the following questions.

3. Discuss the disadvantages of the use of the scientific method in psychology. [15]
4. Comment on ethical issues in the use of non-human animals in research in psychology. [15]
5. Discuss ways of dealing with ethical issues when using human participants in research in psychology. [15]