

## PSYCHOLOGY

6881

[PILOT QUESTION PAPER]

**In addition to this paper you will require:**

a 16-page answer book.

You may use a calculator.

Time allowed: 3 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 6881.
- Answer **three** questions.
- Answer **all** parts of question 1(a) and (b), and **either** part (i) **or** (ii) of question (c) from **Section A**, **one** question from **Section B** and **one** question from **Section C**.

### Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 90.
- Mark allocations are shown in brackets.
- Section A, B and C each carry 33.3% of the total marks for the paper.
- You will be assessed on your ability to use an appropriate form and style of writing, to organise relevant information clearly and coherently, and to use specialist vocabulary, where appropriate. The degree of legibility of your handwriting and the level of accuracy of your spelling, punctuation and grammar will also be taken into account.

### Advice

- You are advised to spend 60 minutes on each section.

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**SECTION A – THEORETICAL ISSUES AND DEBATES**

Read the following extracts and answer the questions which follow.

You should answer **all** parts of question 1(a) and (b), and **either** part (i) **or** (ii) of question (c).

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**1****Total for this question: 30 marks****Item X**

“I believe the science of social psychology is important and I also believe experimental subjects should be protected at all times. When deciding whether a particular experimental procedure is ethical or not, I believe a cost benefit analysis is appropriate. That is how much good will derive from doing the experiment, and how much bad will happen to the experimental subjects, should be considered. Put another way, the benefits to society are compared with the costs to the subjects and this ratio is entered into the decision calculus.”

*Source: ARONSON E., The Social Animal 6<sup>th</sup> Edition (New York W. H. Freeman & CO) 1992*

**Item Y**

“Both costs and benefits are multiple and subjective, some are immediate, others are longer term, and there are difficulties in adding them up.

Regarding multiplicity, every psychology experiment (like every complex social activity) has many outcomes. It is difficult, if not impossible, to identify them, let alone assess them. Even if they can be assessed individually, they need to be aggregated in some way because we are trying to assess the experiment as an overall package, e.g. how much is deception worth relative to “new data”.

In theory-driven research such as Milgram’s (as distinct from applied research), costs tend to be real while benefits tend to be *potential* ... although the benefits may outweigh the costs for the individual participant, it is mostly all costs; time, effort, stress and occasional humiliation and deception; any tangible or practical benefits are unlikely to be for them. The costs, therefore, are linked to the specific people while the identity of those who will benefit is much less obvious.

We need to decide before a study takes place whether or not it should go ahead. But very often the full range and extent of the costs and benefits will only become apparent retrospectively.

Finally, who should have the right to decide whether the benefits outweigh the costs?”

*Source: MCGHEE P., Thinking Psychologically (Basingstoke Palgrave) 2001*

**Item Z**

“Any research that psychologists do is carried out within a whole range of constraints - methodological, ethical, financial, social, cultural and political. The very questions that psychologists ask about human behaviour and experience reflect the whole range of beliefs, values, presuppositions and prejudices which in turn reflect the particular culture, gender and other groups to which they belong. While this raises important questions about the objective nature of psychological enquiry, it also raises very important ethical issues. If sexism, heterosexist and the androcentric/masculine bias, Eurocentricism and racism are all inherent features of what psychologists do when they study human beings, then it could be argued that traditional mainstream western academic psychology is inherently unethical.”

Source: GROSS R. D., *Themes Issues and Debates in Psychology 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* (Hodder & Stoughton) 1995

- (a) McGhee (2001) asserts that costs and benefits are “subjective”. (**Item Y, line 1**) Explain what you understand by this, and illustrate your answer by reference to psychological research. (6 marks)
- (b) Briefly consider **one** type of bias in psychological research. (9 marks)
- (c) Answer **either** (i) **or** (ii).
- (i) Identify **two** psychological investigations:
- one in which you believe the benefits to society have exceeded the costs;
  - one in which you believe the costs have exceeded the benefits to society.
- For each, justify your choice by reference to costs and benefits of the study. (15 marks)
- (ii) Discuss Gross’s view that traditional mainstream western academic psychology is inherently unethical (**Item Z, line 8**). (15 marks)

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## SECTION B - METHODOLOGY

You should answer **all** parts of the question.

In this Section you will be assessed on the extent to which your design can be replicated and you are expected to give proper regard to ethical considerations.

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**1**

**Total for this question: 30 marks**

A year ago Jack and Ben, two ten year old boys, were best friends. At Christmas, Jack received a present of the latest games console, and Ben received a present of a new mobile phone with a built in camera. They do not play together much anymore. Jack always wants to stay in and play on his games console. Ben has lots of new friends whom he telephones and sends photographs to. Jack's mum has noticed that fewer friends come to play these days. Ben's mother complains that he always wants to be out.

- (a) Design an appropriate study to investigate the relationship between social skills and computer games. (15 marks)
  - (b) Explain and justify your design decisions. (9 marks)
  - (c) Explain and justify how you might analyse and interpret your data. (6 marks)
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## SECTION C - APPLICATION

Answer **one** question from this Section. Each question carries 30 marks.

You will be assessed upon your ability to draw upon principles, concepts, theories and approaches from across the different areas of psychology, and apply them to a novel question. You will also be assessed on your ability to develop an argument; and to organise, present and evaluate material coherently.

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- 1** Please read the following quotations and answer the question which follows.

“Most people agree that money can't buy happiness, but they do believe that a *little* more money would make them a *little* more happy, secure, and comfortable. So does our happiness grow, little by little, with our pay checks? No, it doesn't. During the last four decades, the average U.S. citizen's buying power doubled...but, did this buy more happiness? The average American is now twice as rich but not a bit happier. In 1957, some 35 percent said they were "very happy," as did slightly fewer - 32 percent - in 1998.”

*Myers (2000)*

“To be without some of the things you want is an indispensable part of happiness.”

Using your knowledge of psychology, discuss possible explanations as to what makes people happy. (30 marks)

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- 2 Critically consider how *two* psychological approaches might explain why many people enjoy different types of shopping. (30 marks)
- 3 Please read the following quotations and answer the question which follows.

A row of prisoners in white are serving food. Before I get there I am stopped in my tracks by a scream: "He's dead meat!" "He's dead meat!" I turn and see two men: one wields a mop handle, the other a metal bucket. They are using the domestic implements to beat a third prisoner who cowers in a cell doorway. "He's dead meat!"

Suddenly I'm aware that no one else is stopping. Nobody is intervening. Few even look in the direction of the violence. I fall back in line, pick up a tray, collect my meal and return to my cell.

Source: ERWIN JAMES writing in *The Guardian*, Monday January 29, 2001

"My dad bought me a Rangers strip when I was seven. If I'd been given a Celtic strip, I'd have supported Celtic. I'd no idea Rangers were the Protestant team.

The joke in Glasgow these days is that there's more Catholics playing for Rangers than Celtic these days. Rangers fans say it's alright if it's Italian Catholics but not Irish Catholics!"

Source: ALAN MCGEE on Rangers, Interview by Denis Campbell in *The Observer*, Sunday June 4, 2000

Discuss the extent to which psychology can inform our understanding of complex social issues, such as those raised in the quotations above. (30 marks)

**END OF QUESTIONS**

**THERE ARE NO QUESTIONS PRINTED ON THIS PAGE**