

General Certificate of Education
June 2005
Advanced Extension Award



PSYCHOLOGY

6881

Tuesday 28 June 2005 9.00 am to 12.00 pm

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.
- In **Section A** answer parts (a) and (b), and **either** part (c) **or** (d). Answer **all** questions in **Section B**. Answer **one** question from **Section C**.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 90.
- Mark allocations are shown in brackets.
- Sections A, B and C each carry 33.3% of the total marks for the paper.
- You will be assessed on your ability to apply and communicate effectively your understanding of the fundamental principles, theories, concepts and methods of psychology, using skills of interpretation, critical analysis, evaluation and synthesis.

Advice

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

SECTION A – THEORETICAL ISSUES AND DEBATES

Read the following extracts and answer the questions which follow.

You should answer parts (a) and (b), and **either** part (c) **or** (d).

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

“The behaviourists believe that there is nothing from within to develop. If you start with the right number of fingers and toes, eyes and a few elementary movements that are present at birth, you do not need anything else in the way of raw material to make man a genius, a cultured gentleman or a rowdy thug.”

Source: WATSON J. Behaviourism, University of Chicago Press, 1928

- (a) Using your knowledge of psychology, briefly explain the claim that is being made in the statement above. (6 marks)
- (b) Discuss methods that have been used to investigate the nature-nurture debate in psychology. (12 marks)

Answer **either** (c) **or** (d).

- (c) Discuss the contribution of **one** non-behaviourist psychologist of your choice to the nature-nurture debate. (12 marks)

“Many gays and lesbians fight for the right to choose their sexual preferences, so it may be very surprising to find LeVay, a homosexual and eminent biologist, advocating the search for ‘gay genes’. He believes that, if successful, the scientific evidence will make society as a whole more, not less, tolerant, precisely because it will show that homosexuals don’t choose to ‘be that way’.”

Source: GROSS R.D. Themes, Issues & Debates in Psychology 2nd Edition, London, Hodder & Stoughton, page 92, 2003

- (d) In the context of the nature-nurture debate in psychology, discuss issues raised by the extract above. (12 marks)

SECTION B – METHODOLOGY

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

In this Section, you will be assessed on the appropriateness of your design and clarity of your descriptions.
You are expected to give proper regard to ethical considerations.

2**Total for this question: 30 marks**

An interesting characteristic of the past hundred years has been the development in size and ‘fear-factor’ of theme park and entertainment rides. Once quaintly known as roller coasters and big dippers, we now have the likes of Oblivion, Air and Nemesis. Riders hurtle through the air upside down, twist over on themselves and plunge down vertical drops in their carriages.

- (a) (i) Design **two** studies, using different methodologies, to investigate whether there are age differences in how frightened people are by the rides. *(14 marks)*
- (ii) Explain how you would analyse the data (qualitative or quantitative) from **one** of these studies. *(6 marks)*
- (b) Compare the effectiveness of the **two** studies you have designed in part (a) (i) above for studying possible age differences in ‘ride fright’. *(10 marks)*

TURN OVER FOR THE NEXT SECTION

Turn over ►

SECTION C – APPROACHES AND APPLICATIONS

Answer **one** question from this Section.

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

3 Please read the following newspaper extracts and answer the question below.

“Nearly half the people who own sandwich toasters admit not using them, says a survey on ownership of useless gadgets Useless goods in British cupboards are valued at a total of £3.1 billion, with three quarters of adults admitting to having spent an average of £73 on such items.”

Source: The Observer, 3 October, 2004

TRUST ME, I’M NOT A DOCTOR

“Did you know there are pills out there that claim to make your breasts bigger, rid your thighs of cellulite, strip away body fat and give you rock-hard muscles without exercise? Of course you did. You may even have bought – or considered buying – some of these miracle medicines, and you wouldn’t be alone. It seems that when it comes to improving our bodies, we are suckers for a quick fix, no matter how dubious the claim What makes normally discerning consumers swallow these far-fetched claims?”

Source: MURPHY S. The Weekend Guardian, 25 September, 2004

The extracts above claim that ordinary people buy gadgets they do not need and products, such as health pills, that may not work. A number of areas of psychology can explain why these and other similar behaviours occur. Describe and evaluate **two or more** of these explanations. *(30 marks)*

- 4** Discuss the way a behaviourist approach **and** a psychodynamic approach can be used to explain **one** area of concern to young people today. *(30 marks)*
- 5** Critically consider how psychologists might explain the popularity of ‘reality TV programmes’ (for example Big Brother). *(30 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

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Question 1(d) *Source:* GROSS, R. D., *Themes, Issues & Debates in Psychology 2nd Edition*, London, Hodder & Stoughton, page 92, 2003.

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Question 3 *Source:* *The Observer*, 3 October, 2004, GUARDIAN NEWSPAPERS LIMITED

MURPHY S. *The Weekend Guardian*, 25 September, 2004, GUARDIAN NEWSPAPERS LIMITED

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