



Examiners' Report June 2016

GCSE Psychology 5PS01 01

#### **Edexcel and BTEC Qualifications**

Edexcel and BTEC qualifications come from Pearson, the UK's largest awarding body. We provide a wide range of qualifications including academic, vocational, occupational and specific programmes for employers. For further information visit our qualifications websites at www.edexcel.com or www.btec.co.uk.

Alternatively, you can get in touch with us using the details on our contact us page at www.edexcel.com/contactus.



#### Giving you insight to inform next steps

ResultsPlus is Pearson's free online service giving instant and detailed analysis of your students' exam results.

- See students' scores for every exam question.
- Understand how your students' performance compares with class and national averages.
- Identify potential topics, skills and types of question where students may need to develop their learning further.

For more information on ResultsPlus, or to log in, visit <a href="www.edexcel.com/resultsplus">www.edexcel.com/resultsplus</a>. Your exams officer will be able to set up your ResultsPlus account in minutes via Edexcel Online.

#### Pearson: helping people progress, everywhere

Pearson aspires to be the world's leading learning company. Our aim is to help everyone progress in their lives through education. We believe in every kind of learning, for all kinds of people, wherever they are in the world. We've been involved in education for over 150 years, and by working across 70 countries, in 100 languages, we have built an international reputation for our commitment to high standards and raising achievement through innovation in education. Find out more about how we can help you and your students at: <a href="https://www.pearson.com/uk">www.pearson.com/uk</a>.

June 2016

Publications Code 5PS01\_01\_1606\_ER

All the material in this publication is copyright

© Pearson Education Ltd 2016

#### Introduction

Candidates demonstrated some excellent knowledge and understanding of the specification in this paper, over a diverse range of ideas. In questions 1-4 many candidates showed confidence in their understanding of the structure and function of the visual system, depth cues and illusions. In question 5 many demonstrated a thorough knowledge of the Gestalt laws and the ability to apply them to a novel situation. Question 7 on research methods produced a wide range of scores across the ability spectrum, with many candidates showing a good grasp of the basic principles of experimental design, the role of controls and how to implement them. It is useful for candidates to have had practical experience of studies in order to tackle such questions well. Previous experience of applying their knowledge to scenarios was also in evidence in many answers to question 12, which required candidates to apply their knowledge of Freud's dream theory, and a good knowledge of the accreditation process for psychoanalysts was in evidence in question 13. Finally, candidates showed a range of abilities and knowledge in their answers to question 15 about REM sleep disorder.

# Question 1 (b)

This was a 'cross the box' question which gave candidates a confidence-building start to the paper.

#### Question 4

This question asked for a single weakness for a single mark, so could be a simple, unelaborated response.

This is a good answer

4 Gregory's perspective theory of illusions explains that we perceive flat objects as if they were three dimensional.

Outline one weakness of this theory.

A wearness is that he cannot explain the muller-lyer illusion with Circles



Some candidates simply said "A weakness is that he cannot explain the Muller-Lyer illusion", which is incorrect so earned no marks. Many more however, correctly ended the comment, as this candidate has, with "version with circles (instead of fins)", which is correct. Some candidates drew the version that cannot be explained by Gregory, and said that this was the case, which was an alternative way to earn the same marking point.



If you have a choice, go for the 'easy option'! Some candidates did not earn marks here because rather than just stating that Gregory's theory could not account for this situation, that they tried unsuccessfully to explain only the underlying reason why the circles version of the Muller-Lyer illusion presents a weakness for Gregory, ie that it does not have appropriate three-dimensional cues.

This is another good answer

Outline one weakness of this theory.

He Cannot explain fictions very well, Gestalt explains them better



This candidate has answered better than some, who suggested that Gregory 'could not explain any fictions'. They have also provided some extra information, that was not required to earn the mark, but which is also correct (ie 'Gestalt explains them better').

# **Question 5**

Many candidates gave excellent answers here, identifying the more obvious points, such as those illustrated below. A small number of candidates, however, did not follow the instructions. Three common errors were to circle less (or more) than four parts of the diagram or to forget to link these to a box in part (a) or to explain similarity rather than one of the aspects they had identified, in part (b).

This could easily have been a much better answer.

(iii) Name of Gestalt law

5 In the picture in part (a), examples of the following five Gestalt laws can be seen: similarity (this one has been done for you) closure V proximity continuity figure-ground. (a) On the picture below, draw a circle around each one of the four separate parts of the picture that illustrate the Gestalt laws of closure, proximity, continuity and figure-ground. For each part of the picture that you have circled, link it with an arrow to a box and name the Gestalt law. The example for similarity has been done for you. (4)(ii) Name of Gestalt law (i) Name of Gestalt law losure (example) Name of Gestalt law similarity

(iv) Name of Gestalt law

ontinuity

(b) Choose three of the Gestalt laws you have named in part (a). For each one describe how the part of the picture you have circled illustrates that law.  (3)  1 Mar Proximity Done object are  Seen as a grap in Head of individually alve to there similarities The fruit on the table 8 have this law.
2 Closure & when your brain dees an mage and automatically fills in the capt conflicut it being there. The Kanesus trangle emanders on the way shows this law.
3 Continuity 13 when there seems to be a Sequence or Partern that Stops and your brain automorrally comes on the sequence.



The candidate has written 'figure-ground' in the first box in part (a), but has not linked this to an aspect of the picture, although the rest of part (a) is correct.

In part (b) answer 1, the candidate has made a common error, suggesting proximity is due to similarities between the objects rather than that they are close together. In answer 2 they have made another common error – they have explained the Gestalt law of continuity entirely correctly, but this does not answer the question. They needed to explain how that part of the picture illustrated the law.



Be absolutely sure that you are answering the question. Where there is a scenario or diagram, make sure you know whether you are supposed to use this in your answer to each individual part of the question.

This was an excellent answer.

In the picture in part (a), examples of the following five Gestalt laws can be seen: similarity (this one has been done for you) closure proximity continuity figure-ground. (a) On the picture below, draw a circle around each one of the four separate parts of the picture that illustrate the Gestalt laws of closure, proximity, continuity and figure-ground. For each part of the picture that you have circled, link it with an arrow to a box and name the Gestalt law. The example for similarity has been done for you. (4)(ii) Name of Gestalt law (i) Name of Gestalt law Elasure (example) Name of Gestalt law similarity (iv) Name of Gestalt law (iii) Name of Gestalt law proximit continuity

	(b) Choose <b>three</b> of the Gestalt laws you have named in part (a). For each one describe how the part of the picture you have circled illustrates that law.	(3)
1	Olosure - The "bitten Circles" in the picture was perceiven on 1/bFighter than white triangle	as their
	Oppear to be corners that Create illusory con	tours /
	between them that create the shape	
2	proximity-the smits are all close togethe their own small area of the table. This close	er in
	Conses US to perceive them as a grown.	Seness
******	0 14th 10 100 dags 1ts -1	1
3	and netween the them and com to collaws	1 hoive
	Down between the them and seem to gotlow a our mind then sills in the gaps in order to perceive the drops as is they ere sollow.	GO WS
	to perceive the drops as is theyere sollowing	ng the
	Curved line	7



This candidate's circles and arrow were clear, and they had made the easiest choices in (a). Other common choices were to use the skirting board behind the table for continuity, and either the fruit against the table or the table against the wall for figure ground. In (b) their answers were very thorough, typically earning the mark within one or two lines of their answer.

### Question 7 (a)

There were many one-mark answers to this question, as candidates identified but did not fully describe the independent variable. A common error was to simply identify two items from the same level of the IV, or to only state one level of the IV.

This was a typical 1-mark answer.

7 Miss Pandy has two psychology classes. She is conducting a study similar to Palmer (1975) but is using a real classroom rather than images.

She starts her first lesson with four objects on her desk. They all fit a classroom scene: a rectangular board rubber, a small circular clock, a stapler and a hole punch. After 20 seconds she covers up the objects. One minute later she asks her students to recall the names of the objects.

She starts her second lesson with another class in the same way but has replaced the board rubber with a similar sized box of sweets and replaced the clock with a similar sized orange. After 20 seconds she covers up the objects, and one minute later she asks the students to recall them.

(a) Describe the independent variable (IV) in Miss Pandy's experiment.

The u changing the whether the class have to identify a board noticer and clock or a 60x of sweets and an orange



Many candidates gave answers like this, identifying how the two levels of the IV were presented without describing what the IV actually was.



When you are describing an idependent variable, try to think about what it is that is being varied or changed, then about the way that this has been achieved. This will enable you to identify and operationalise the IV fully.

(2)

This was a good, detailed answer.

7 Miss Pandy has two psychology classes. She is conducting a study similar to Palmer (1975) but is using a real classroom rather than images.

She starts her first lesson with four objects on her desk. They all fit a classroom scene: a rectangular board rubber, a small circular clock, a stapler and a hole punch. After 20 seconds she covers up the objects. One minute later she asks her students to recall the names of the objects.

She starts her second lesson with another class in the same way but has replaced the board rubber with a similar sized box of sweets and replaced the clock with a similar sized orange. After 20 seconds she covers up the objects, and one minute later she asks the students to recall them.

(a) Describe the independent variable (IV) in Miss Pandy's experiment.

Whither she had appoper appropriate tens in the classroom, like the clock and the board where or if the had inappropriate objects, the the orange and the sneet



This candidate has identified the IV and described the two levels, ie whether the objects were appropriate and inappropriate for the classroom. This was sufficient for 2 marks. They have added examples, which has helped them to ensure that they understand the situation that has been described.

### Question 7 (b)

This question showed that many candidates had a good grasp of the concept of an independent groups design and could apply this concept to a novel situation. Some candidates, however, simply described the procedure and others, getting closer to a correct answer, suggested that different groups of participants did 'different things'.

A small number of candidates confused 'independent groups' with the concept of 'independent learning' in schools.

This candidate has given one of many possible good answers.

Miss Pandy's study is an example of an independent groups design.

(b) (i) Explain what is meant by an independent groups design.

(1)

Different participants do each condition in the experiment.

(ii) Explain why Miss Pandy used an independent groups design for her experiment.

(1)

To stop students questing the aum and acting

to remember



In part (i) the candidate has successfully expressed the idea that different people are used for different levels of the independent variable. Some candidates went on to contextualise their answer here, which was not necessary, but may have helped them to focus on the questions.

This candidate has common errors in both parts of the question.

Miss Pandy's study is an example of an independent groups design.

(b) (i) Explain what is meant by an independent groups design.

when different groups of participants are used

(ii) Explain why Miss Pandy used an independent groups design for her experiment.

1 1911/14 1 1911/14

can be compared



In part (i), the candidate has begun well, but needed to go on to say when different participants are used, ie in different levels of the IV.

In part (b) they are aware that an independent group design involves a comparison between groups, and that this must control for some potential source of error, but they have not identified what this might be.



If you are unsure about how to answer a question fully, use the information in the scenario where there is one. Although this question did not require contextualisation in either part, doing so might have helped this candidate to gain marks.

### Question 7(c)-(d)

It was pleasing to see that many candidates took the simple information from the question and used it very effectively to answer question parts ci and ii. However, it was also impressive to see the extent to which they could generate sensible, original ideas in order to answer part 9(d). A small number of candidates did not read the question in part (d) and talked about the objects that were not changed, rather than the 'new' ones.

This was a typical full mark answer.

(c) (i) Describe two controls that Miss Pandy used in her experiment.  1 The amount of time the objects were accorded	(2)
2 The amount of time that she wanted begon ashing them to	Eccall what
(ii) Explain why one of these controls was important in this experiment.  The amount of time the objects were uncovered for is important they were left amoveed for longer inhubits be casier to rem	(2) fas if
they were het ancovered for longer illusted be casier to rem  (d) Describe one possible problem with the new objects Miss Pandy chose to use for her second class.  The pupils may pay more after too to the sweets on the dish as more describe than any objects previs previously displayed 50 it is cousier to remember. This could be	(2)



This candidate has chosen the obvious controls of timing in part (i), and explained the importance of this effectively in part (ii). It is important to note that many candidates did not earn 2 marks here as they did not indicate the effect of seeing the objects for a longer or shorter time, or having a longer or shorter gap before recall, ie that it would improve or impair recall.

This candidate gave largely good answers, but made a common mistake in part (ii).

(c) (i) Describe <b>two</b> controls that Miss Pandy used in her experiment.	(2)
1 one control was that she used a total of four	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
objects for both experiments, and didn't change t	bat.
2 Another control was that she gave both groups 20 seconds before covering over the objects.	
(ii) Explain why <b>one</b> of these controls was important in this experiment.	(2)
(ii) Explain why one of these controls was important in this experiment.  Giving both classes 20 seconds before covering	
Giving both classes 20 seconds before covening	

(d) Describe **one** possible problem with the new objects Miss Pandy chose to use for her second class.

(2)

The students may easily be drawn to the sweets and therefore will remember them easier as they.

The sweets and the orange, are unsual for a classroom.

They are then more easily remembered.



Both answers in (c) part (i) are correct. However, in part (ii), this candidate has made three common mistakes. Firstly, they have repeated the answer to (i), restating the control itself. They have then descibed it as a 'fair test', which earns no credit. Finally they have suggested that this improves 'reliability', which is not an explanation in itself.

The answer to (d) is very good, but note that the end phrase, that they 'are unusual for a classroom' and that they 'are then more easily remembered' is in fact what was being tested, ie the aim, not a possible problem. This was a common mistake to make but did not matter here as the candidate had already earned both available marks.



If you use terms such as 'reliability' or 'validity' in questions asking for an explanation of a situation, make sure that you have said why the procedure makes the study more reliable or valid. The term alone is unlikely to be sufficient. By doing this, you will be explaining why it is a 'fair test'.

#### Question 12

Many candidates demonstrated a clear ability to apply their understanding of the concepts in Freud's dream theory and to apply them to the scenario. There were pleasingly few answers that simply described Freud's ideas without applying them and a small number that tried to suggest Oedipal fears of the maths teacher. Most candidates interpreted the story in the same way, although some creditworthy answers chose different interpretations that were also plausible.

This candidate has some knowledge of Freud's dream theory but has not used it very effectively to answer the question.

12 Ted has a big, black hairy dog that is very friendly. Mr Pascoe, Ted's maths teacher, is short with blond hair. Mr Pascoe is going to be very cross on Monday because Ted has lost his homework again. On Sunday night, Ted dreams about a little, white hairy dog that is very friendly; together they go to play on a sandy beach with a ball and have fun.

Explain Ted's dream using Freud's (1900) dream theory.

But dreams do have meaning, so because

Le dreams about little, white have

deg this could be lished to for Ted's much teacher because he is short with blood

hair which is similar to be discreption of the

clog. This means their that Ted unconcour

med to his concours mind

which is causing him to dream about it.

This he Frend before that each dream

has a indigning meaning his is called

the manifest content his could suggests that

actually Mr Pascoe (Total for Question 12 = 3 marks)

won't actually he exted

oross at Ted after all.



They begin with a correct but irrelevant staement about dreams having meaning, then earn a point for their description of the represenation of Mr Pascoe as the dog, even though they have not named a concept here. They go on to recognise that there will be an unconscious wish beneath the dream, but they do not explain what this could be in this case, so do not earn a mark for this idea. Finally, they mention the term 'manifest content' but it is not correctly linked to the dream description.



It is important to have three skills: knowledge of terms and concepts, an understanding of what these mean, and the ability to apply these to new scenarios. Try to practise applying ideas to scenarios as often as you can.

12 Ted has a big, black hairy dog that is very friendly. Mr Pascoe, Ted's maths teacher, is short with blond hair. Mr Pascoe is going to be very cross on Monday because Ted has lost his homework again. On Sunday night, Ted dreams about a little, white hairy dog that is very friendly; together they go to play on a sandy beach with a ball and Displace have fun.

Explain Ted's dream using Freud's (1900) dream theory.

Freud's the ory would say that the ball and the boach could be secondary elaboration to make the dream into a story. The whole dream could be wish fulfithment as Ted doesn't want to get in trouble on honday so the dog represents he based with the white fur boing a manifestation of his blood hair. The fact that he manifestation of his blood hair. The fact that he manifestation of his blood hair. Sation of month to beach may be condensation of month the boal may represent the homework.



This candidate begins by identifying an aspect of secondary elaboration and explains what this means, although they are not required to do so. They then identify an example of wish fulfilment and earn a third mark for mentioning the representation of Mr Pascoe as the dog. There are then further comments about condensation and representation that are not required as they have already earned full marks.

#### **Question 13**

There was evidence of some well informed candidates who had learned ample, correct information. There were a few candidates who were unclear about the difference between 'training' and 'skills'.

This answer gained 3 of the possible 5 marks, and made a common error.

13 Tenshi is a psychoanalyst. Describe what Tenshi would have had to do to gain accreditation, which is the recognised status for a psychoanalyst.					
She would have to get a degree in psychology					
and would have to go undergo training.					
She would also have to have psychoanalysis					
done to been her so she can get rid of					
her problems. She would then have to the psychoanalysis					
on people With a trained psychoanalyst observing.					
After 4 years of trainging and getting her					
psychology degree She a would become am psychoanalyst					



There were marks here for qualifications, a degree, training that is she should have psychoanalysis herself, although the elaboration of 'so that she can get rid of her own problems' was not sufficient for another mark. The candidate needed to explain why this was important in training. The candidate then makes a common error, suggesting that training involves being observed. It involves neither being observed nor observation of a trained practitioner. Supervision is a discussion process. Finally a third mark is gained from identifying the duration of the training process.

13 Tenshi is a psychoanalyst. Describe what Tenshi would have had to do to gain accreditation, which is the recognised status for a psychoanalyst.

He would have to undergo psychoanalysis himself the tour or five times a week fer just under an hour however this is only after gaining a degree or the equivilent of a degree in psychology. Then he would start the hyear part time maining. In the first year he would what attend seminars and luctures about Freuch's therapy/theory and other theories. In the second year he would the start to penform psychoanalysis on a patient whilst being supervised and then in the third year he would take on a second patient whose psychoanalysis lasts for a year. After completing this training, he would have gained (Total for Question 13 = 5 marks) accreditation.



This candidate earns marks for training, having psychanalysis himself, and for the frequency of this analysis. There is then a mark in relation to qualifications, a degree, and two further training marks for the duration and the details about what is learned. At this point, this candidate achieved the maximum mark. There are however, two further creditworthy points, about supervision and the patients taken on.



On longer answers it is often possible to earn marks for elaborating points, so try to do this. For example here, saying why receiving psychoanalysis is important – to help to overcome the trainee's own unconscious issues so that they do not interfere with the therapy they offer.

### Question 14 (c)

Although many candidates could explain what was meant by 'qualitative data', fewer were able to explain why this was a strength of Freud's study.

This candidate has given a common correct answer in (i) but made a common error in (ii).

(c) One strength of Freud's case study was that it collected qualitative data.					
(i) Explain what is meant by <b>qualitative data</b> .	(1)				
Daka that explains in detail what	21				
Shown.					
(ii) Explain why the use of qualitative data was a strength in Freud's case study.					
Because gathering detailed information	(1) heiped				
tions him to understand what was going "	oa in				
the Stary.					



In part (i), 'in detail' is sufficient. Answers here included other ideas such as 'descriptive'.

In part (ii) just saying 'the study' or 'little Hans' is not sufficient to answer the question. A strength which itself is linked to the study must be given. This candidate could have gone on to say '...such as the dreams/phobia little Hans had.'

This candidate earns full marks.

(c) One strength of Freud's case study was that it collected qualitative data.	
(i) Explain what is meant by qualitative data.	
	(1)
the data is in-depth and full	at a
detail.	
(ii) Explain why the use of qualitative data was a strength in Freud's case study.	
	(1)
It meant he could acther lots	Of)
information about Little Hans of	bnu
make a detailed analysis of his	14441111), hphhhabaaaaday444
unconcious desires and wishes.	



In part (i) they offer both 'in-depth' and 'detailed', either of which could have earned the mark.

In part (ii), reference to the understanding of little Hans's unconscious desires and wishes is appropriate and earns credit.

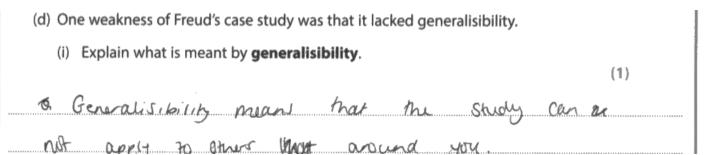


When the question makes a direct reference to a study, such as here, it is important that you include relevant information about that study in your response.

### Question 14 (d)(i)

This question required no contextualisation, just a definition.

This a very competent answer.





This candidate has expressed very well the idea that it is the ability of the results to be applied to new people. Other candidates also identified the importance of generalisibility to other situations.



Try to learn definitions for all the key methodological terms. You may be asked to define them or to apply them.

This candidate has made a common error.

(d) One weakness of Freud's case study was that it lacked generalisibility.

(i) Explain what is meant by generalisibility.

(1)

That the results/offindings can be applied to people of the the person the study was done on:



This candidate's answer illustrates a common confusion between what generalisibility is, and what it is not.

### Question 14 (d)(ii)

This question required the application of the knowledge from part d(i) to Freud's study.

This was a good answer, going beyond the simple idea of just studying little Hans.

(ii) Explain why the findings of Freud's case study lacked generalisibility.

(2)

Le only studied onl person as with most case studies therefore was made to apply it to nost of the production



This candidate, in common with many others, earned one mark for the idea of just studying little Hans, conveyed in this example nicely by 'little Hans specifically'. Importantly, this is followed by an explanation of why that matters, ie that his dreams and thoughts would have been different from other people's.

This was a typical one-mark answer.

(ii) Explain why the findings of Freud's case study lacked generalisibility.

(2)

Freud's case study looked generalisability

because it was a long detailed

lase study on Little Hars specifically
The finding case from Hars' dreems and

thoughts, which other people do not

have the fidges also themed interpretation.



The candidate has correctly suggested that in studying only one person the results could not be generalised, but for two marks this needs some elaboration. They could have gone on to say 'because little Hans had different unconscious thoughts from other children'.



In a question asking for an explanation for two marks, try to add some detail to your answer.

### Question 15 (a)(ii)

Many candidates answered this question well, acknowedging the instruction to "make up an example of the patients' dream", and using this effectively to respond fully to the question. Those candidates who did not make up a dream would perhaps have benefitted from more experience of such exercises. Other candidates earned no credit here because they selected and explained Molly's or Anika's experiences. Some of these candidates demonstrated good knowledge of other sleep disorders, which are not on the specification.

This was a simple but effective two mark answer.

(ii) Explain how you know that this patient is suffering from REM sleep disorder.

Make up an example of the patient's dream to illustrate your answer.

(2)

Peter us suffuring from a form of parasomnia where he begins to act out his dreams. This is a REM sleep disorder as a person can only dream during



This candidate uses the term 'parasomnia' and, although this is correct, it is not required for the answer.

This was a good full mark answer.

(ii) Explain how you know that this patient is suffering from REM sleep disorder. Make up an example of the patient's dream to illustrate your answer.

(2)

Because Peter is exting out his dream it means movement inhibition is not occurring for exeample if he is walking in his dream he may act out the action of walking while he is sleeping.



This candidate has given a sophisticated answer using the term 'movement inhibition' appropriately.



Think about what relevant information and terms you can use in an answer. It may not be obvious at first.

# **Paper Summary**

Based on their performance on this paper, candidates should:

- Be certain that they can define basic terms, to give them essential knowledge and an understanding that underpins other skills
- Ensure that they have ample practical experience, for example of experimental designs
- Find opportunities to apply their knowledge, for example to their own experiences or to invented scenarios
- Try to use information in the question to guide how they answer.

# **Grade Boundaries**

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx





