



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Level Examination
June 2015

Psychology (Specification A) PSYA4R

Unit 4 Psychopathology, Psychology in Action and Research Methods

Tuesday 16 June 2015 9.00 am to 11.00 am

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

Time allowed

- 2 hours

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **paper reference** is PSYA4R.
- In **Section A**, choose **one** topic. Answer **all** questions on the topic you choose. Where appropriate, refer to theories and/or studies.
- In **Section B**, choose **one** topic. Answer **all** questions on the topic you choose. Where appropriate, refer to theories and/or studies.
- In **Section C**, you should answer **all** questions.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 83.
- In **Section A** and in **Section B** you will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Section A Psychopathology

Choose **one** topic from **Section A**. Answer **all** questions on the topic you choose.

Each topic carries 24 marks.

Where appropriate, refer to theories and/or studies.

Topic: Schizophrenia

0 | 1 Outline **one** issue relating to the classification **and/or** diagnosis of schizophrenia. **[4 marks]**

0 | 2 Outline and evaluate **one or more** biological explanations for schizophrenia. **[4 marks + 16 marks]**

Topic: Depression

0 | 3 Outline **one** issue relating to the classification **and/or** diagnosis of depression. **[4 marks]**

0 | 4 Outline and evaluate **one or more** biological therapies for depression. **[4 marks + 16 marks]**

Topic: Phobic Disorders

0 | 5 Outline the clinical characteristics of phobic disorders. **[4 marks]**

0 | 6 Outline and evaluate **one or more** psychological therapies for phobic disorders. **[4 marks + 16 marks]**

Topic: Obsessive Compulsive Disorder

0 | 7 Outline the clinical characteristics of obsessive compulsive disorder. **[4 marks]**

0 | 8 Outline and evaluate **one or more** psychological explanations for obsessive compulsive disorder. **[4 marks + 16 marks]**

Section B Psychology in Action

Choose **one** topic from **Section B**. Answer **all** questions on the topic you choose.

Each topic carries 24 marks.

Where appropriate, refer to theories and/or studies.

Topic: Media Psychology

0 9 Discuss **one or more** explanations of how the media influences anti-social behaviour. **[4 marks + 6 marks]**

1 0 A mobile phone company feels that the market for phones for people aged 65+ is not sufficiently developed. They have produced a phone that is slightly larger, with a larger keypad, clearer display, and fewer but more straightforward applications.

Using your knowledge of the persuasiveness of TV advertising, what advice would you give to the company so that it could make the TV advertising campaign as effective as possible? Refer to psychological research to justify your advice.

[10 marks]

1 1 Outline the findings of **one or more** studies of intense fandom. **[4 marks]**

Topic: The Psychology of Addictive Behaviour

1 2 Discuss the learning approach to explaining initiation of gambling. **[4 marks + 6 marks]**

1 3 Dan has been working long hours revising for his final degree exams at University. His friends persuade him that a short break would help him to relax while he is waiting for his results. They all go away to enjoy some of Dan's favourite activities, caving and rock climbing. One evening they play the slot machines in town before going on to a club. Dan has not played slot machines before, but he finds it exciting. From then on Dan plays the slot machines, even when his friends are off doing other things.

Using your knowledge of risk factors in the development of addiction, explain Dan's desire to play the slot machines.

[10 marks]

1 4 Outline the theory of planned behaviour (TPB) as a model of addiction prevention. **[4 marks]**

Turn over ►

Topic: Anomalistic Psychology

- 1 5** Outline **one or more** methodological issues related to the use of the Ganzfeld procedure in the study of paranormal cognition. **[4 marks]**
- 1 6** Joe started following his local football team when he was 10 years old. The first four times he went to a match he wore a special scarf knitted by his mum and each time his team won. For the next match that he went to, Joe could not wear the scarf as it was in the wash. The team lost. Joe blamed the defeat on not wearing the scarf.
- Joe is now 25 and still follows the same team. Even though they have lost lots of matches over the years he still makes sure he always wears the scarf. He believes it helps his team to win.
- Use your knowledge of the role of coincidence **and/or** probability judgements in anomalous experience to explain Joe's behaviour and his belief in the power of the scarf. **[10 marks]**
- 1 7** Discuss psychological research studies that have investigated psychic healing. **[4 marks + 6 marks]**

Section C Psychological Research and Scientific Method

Answer **all** questions in this section.

This topic carries 35 marks.

Topic: Psychological Research and Scientific Method

Read this information very carefully as you will need to refer to it in later questions.

Empathy is the ability to understand the feelings and emotions of other people. Some studies have shown that people high in empathy, are more accurate at recognising facial expressions of emotions such as happy, sad, fearful, angry and surprised. A psychologist wanted to investigate this using a sample of 28 students from a local sixth form college.

In the first part of the study the psychologist used a questionnaire to measure empathy in the participants. The maximum possible empathy score was 60. She found that the lowest empathy score in her participants was 20, and the highest empathy score was 55.

In the second part of the study each participant was presented with a series of faces showing different emotional expressions. The emotions were happy, sad, fearful, angry and surprised. There were 20 examples of each emotion. Each of the 100 faces was presented randomly on a computer screen for 0.5 of a second. After each presentation the participant had to press the appropriate key to identify the emotion expressed. Once the key was pressed the next face was presented. The total number of emotional expressions correctly identified by the participants ranged from 14 to 92.

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| 1 | 8 |
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 Identify an appropriate sampling technique for this study and justify your choice. **[2 marks]**
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 Explain why it would be important for the psychologist to carry out a pilot study in relation to the second part of the study. **[4 marks]**
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 What is meant by 'reliability'? Explain how the psychologist might assess the reliability of her questionnaire. **[1 mark + 3 marks]**

Turn over ►

2 | 1

The psychologist used Spearman's Rho (r_s) to see if the correlation between empathy scores and recognition of facial expressions of emotions was significant. The calculated value of r_s was +0.490.

State whether this calculated value of r_s is significant. Using **Table 1** below explain your answer.

[1 mark + 2 marks]

Table 1 – Critical values for Spearman's Rho (r_s)

N	Significance Level		
	0.1	0.05	0.01
26	0.331	0.390	0.501
27	0.324	0.383	0.492
28	0.318	0.375	0.483
29	0.312	0.368	0.475
30	0.306	0.362	0.467

Table values are for a two-tailed test. To achieve significance, the calculated value of rho must be greater than the table value.

2 | 2

What is meant by a 'Type 1 error'? Explain why the psychologist thought that she had **not** made a Type 1 error.

[1 mark + 3 marks]

2 | 3

The psychologist submitted her report on the study for peer review.

Discuss the purpose of peer review.

[6 marks]

The psychologist wanted to do a follow-up study to investigate whether those participants with high empathy scores differed from those with low empathy scores in relation to helping behaviour. In order to do this she needed to consider how to measure her dependent variable and how to analyse the data that she collected.

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 Identify the independent variable and the dependent variable in this follow-up study. **[2 marks]**
- | | |
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| 2 | 5 |
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 Explain how the psychologist might measure the dependent variable. **[3 marks]**
- | | |
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| 2 | 6 |
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 Identify an appropriate statistical test that the psychologist could use and justify your choice. **[3 marks]**
- | | |
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| 2 | 7 |
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 Identify ethical issues in this follow-up study and explain how the psychologist could deal with them. **[4 marks]**

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page