



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination  
June 2015

# Psychology (Specification B) PSYB2

## Unit 2 Social Psychology, Cognitive Psychology and Individual Differences

Monday 18 May 2015 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

**For this paper you must have:**

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

**Time allowed**

- 1 hour 30 minutes

**Instructions**

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **paper reference** is PSYB2.
- Choose **three** topics only, **one** topic from **Section A**, **one** topic from **Section B** and **one** topic from **Section C**.
- Answer **all** questions on the topics you choose.
- Do all rough work in the 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 60.
- The 10-mark questions should be answered in continuous prose. You are advised to plan your answers carefully. In these questions, you will be marked on your ability to:
  - use good English
  - organise information clearly
  - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

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## Section A Social Psychology

There are two topics in this section: Social Influence and Social Cognition.

Choose **one** topic from this section. Answer **all** questions on the topic you choose.

Each topic carries 20 marks.

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### Topic: Social Influence

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- 0 1** Outline how Milgram investigated the effect of **two** situational factors on obedience. **[4 marks]**
- 0 2** The Authoritarian Personality has been identified as a dispositional explanation for obedience.  
Outline the Authoritarian Personality as an explanation for obedience. **[2 marks]**
- 0 3** Outline and briefly explain **two** methodological issues in Asch's studies of social influence. **[4 marks]**
- 0 4** Jonny Upp and Barry Atom were a singing duo. They had queued all night for a talent show audition. Although they had sung together many times, Barry had not learnt their chosen song very well, whereas Jonny knew it word for word. When performing in front of the judges, Jonny sang perfectly, whilst Barry was out of tune and made a number of mistakes.  
Discuss the causes **and/or** effects of arousal on task performance. Refer to Jonny and Barry's audition in your answer. **[10 marks]**

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**Topic: Social Cognition**

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- 0 5** Identify and outline **two** functions of attitudes. **[4 marks]**
- 0 6** Bernard spent many hours preparing for an interview, but he failed to get the job. He did not notice that one of the interviewers tried to shake his hand when he walked in. He was in such a rush in the morning that he had forgotten to clean his shoes and tuck in his shirt. When asked to describe his 'biggest weakness', Bernard replied that he was sometimes 'cold and unfriendly'.  
  
Outline **two** factors that affect impression formation. Refer to Bernard's interview in your answer. **[4 marks]**
- 0 7** Choose **one** of the factors from your answer to question **0 6**. Outline how this factor was investigated in a research study. **[2 marks]**
- 0 8** Discuss **two** attributional biases. Refer to evidence in your answer. **[10 marks]**

**Turn over for the next section**

**Turn over ►**

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## Section B Cognitive Psychology

There are two topics in this section: Remembering and Forgetting and Perceptual Processes.

Choose **one** topic from this section. Answer **all** questions on the topic you choose.

Each topic carries 20 marks.

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### Topic: Remembering and Forgetting

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A researcher wanted to investigate whether or not different types of long-term memory were located in different parts of the brain. He gave a group of participants two different tasks to do.

**Task A** – To think about family holidays they had been on as a child.

**Task B** – To think of the names of countries around the world and their capital cities.

Whilst each participant was performing the tasks, his/her brain activity was monitored using a scanner. The researcher found that a different area of the brain was active when participants were performing **Task A** compared with when they were performing **Task B**.

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| 0 | 9 |
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 Identify the type of long-term memory involved in performing **Task A** in the investigation above. [1 mark]
- |   |   |
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| 1 | 0 |
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 Identify the type of long-term memory involved in performing **Task B** in the investigation above. [1 mark]
- |   |   |
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 Apart from the finding that such memories are located in different areas of the brain, outline **one other** difference between the types of long-term memory you have identified in your answers to questions 

0	9
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 and 

1	0
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 above. [2 marks]
- The investigation of long-term memory outlined above was a laboratory experiment.
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 Explain **one** strength of a laboratory experiment. Refer to the investigation above in your answer. [3 marks]
- |   |   |
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| 1 | 3 |
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 Explain **one** limitation of a laboratory experiment. Refer to the investigation above in your answer. [3 marks]
- |   |   |
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 Describe and evaluate the levels of processing explanation of memory. Refer to evidence in your answer. [10 marks]

## Topic: Perceptual Processes

Many years ago, a researcher wanted to investigate whether or not there were differences in the way in which people of different cultures perceived the same picture.

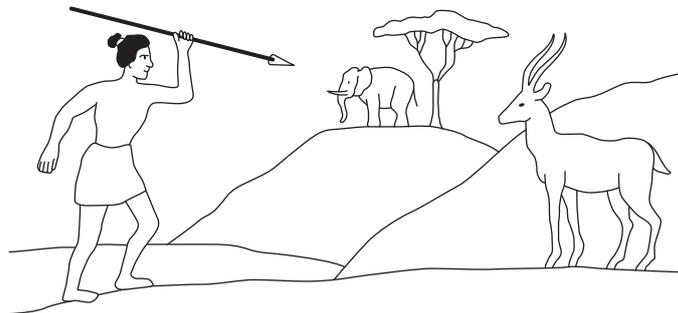
He tested two groups of children:

**Group A:** European children

**Group B:** Bantu children who lived in remote areas of southern Africa where they rarely saw pictures.

The researcher showed both groups of children the following picture.

**Figure 1**



The researcher found that there were differences in the way in which the two groups of children interpreted depth cues within the picture. Most Bantu children thought that the man was trying to spear the elephant.

1 | 5

Explain how the finding from the investigation above supports Gregory's theory of perception.

[2 marks]

There are several monocular depth cues in **Figure 1**. One of these is 'relative size'.

1 | 6

Name **two other** monocular depth cues.

[2 marks]

The investigation of different cultures outlined above is a quasi-experiment.

1 | 7

What is a 'quasi-experiment'? Explain why this investigation is an example of a quasi-experiment.

[3 marks]

1 | 8

Identify the experimental design used in this investigation and explain **one** strength of this experimental design.

[3 marks]

1 | 9

Describe and evaluate Gibson's theory of perception. Refer to evidence in your answer.

[10 marks]

Turn over ►

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### Section C Individual Differences

There are two topics in this section: Anxiety Disorders and Autism.

Choose **one** topic from this section. Answer **all** questions on the topic you choose.

Each topic carries 20 marks.

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#### Topic: Anxiety Disorders

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Rob remembers his mother being extremely tidy around the house when he was a young boy. His mother would become extremely anxious and shout at Rob if he ever made a mess. Since leaving home and moving into his own flat, Rob has become increasingly concerned about hygiene, cleaning his bathroom up to fifty times a day. Rob often lies awake at night worrying about the spread of germs.

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 In the context of obsessive-compulsive disorder, what is meant by an 'obsession' and what is meant by a 'compulsion'? Refer to the example of Rob in your answer. [3 marks]
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 How might a cognitive psychologist explain Rob's behaviour? [2 marks]
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| 2 | 2 |
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 Apart from cognitive explanations, outline **one other** possible explanation for Rob's behaviour. [2 marks]
- |   |   |
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 Briefly evaluate the explanation you have outlined in your answer to question 

2	2
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 above. [3 marks]
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| 2 | 4 |
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 Describe and evaluate **two** treatments for phobias. Refer to evidence in your answer. [10 marks]

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**Topic: Autism**

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When Jack was 3 years old, his parents began to notice that his behaviour was different from that of the other children at his nursery. He rarely spoke to the other children and made very little eye contact with the staff. He preferred to play all day with one toy car in the same corner of the room. Shortly afterwards, Jack was diagnosed with autism.

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 Outline what is meant by the 'triad of impairments' in autism. Refer to the description of Jack in your answer. **[4 marks]**
- |   |   |
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| 2 | 6 |
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 Explain how behaviour modification could be used to treat **one** of the behaviours Jack showed at the nursery. **[3 marks]**
- |   |   |
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| 2 | 7 |
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 Briefly evaluate behaviour modification as a treatment for autism. **[3 marks]**
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 2 | 8 |
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 Describe and evaluate **two** cognitive explanations for autism. Refer to evidence in your answer. **[10 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**

**There are no questions printed on this page**

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Figure 1: Pictorial Depth Perception in Sub-Cultural Groups in Africa, W. Hudson, The Journal of Social Psychology, Vol 52, Issue 2, 11.01.60 and reprinted by permission of the publisher, Taylor & Francis Ltd, <http://www.tandfonline.com>

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