

Cambridge International AS & A Level

CANDIDATE
NAME

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PSYCHOLOGY

9990/12

Paper 1 Approaches, Issues and Debates

February/March 2026

1 hour 30 minutes

You must answer on the question paper.

No additional materials are needed.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer all questions.
- Use a black or dark blue pen. You may use an HB pencil for any diagrams or graphs.
- Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the boxes at the top of the page.
- Write your answer to each question in the space provided.
- Do not use an erasable pen. Do not use correction fluid or tape.
- Do not write on any bar codes.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 60.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].

This document has 12 pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

Section A

Answer all questions.

1 From the study by Baron-Cohen et al. (eyes test):

(a) State the number of participants in Group 1.

..... [1]

(b) Outline what is meant by 'social sensitivity'.

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..... [2]

(c) Outline one result comparing male participants to female participants.

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..... [2]

2 One feature of the sample used in the study by Saavedra and Silverman (button phobia) was that the participant was a boy.

(a) Identify three features of the sample, other than that it was a boy.

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3 [3]

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(b) Explain one weakness of the sample.

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..... [2]

3 A local business wants to introduce activities that will help its workers increase their attention and improve their memory during important meetings.

Suggest what activities the local business could introduce, using your knowledge of the study by Andrade.

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..... [4]

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4 (a) Outline one assumption of the learning approach, including an example from the study by Bandura et al. (aggression).

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..... [3]

(b) Outline one methodological strength of the study by Bandura et al. (aggression).

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..... [2]

5 Suggest two applications to everyday life of the study by Hölzel et al. (mindfulness and brain scans). Your suggestions must be ethical.

suggestion 1

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suggestion 2

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[4]

6 From the study by Pozzulo et al. (line-ups):

(a) Explain whether each ethical guideline below was broken:

(i) consent

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..... [2]

(ii) minimising harm

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..... [2]

(b) Explain how the ethical guideline of confidentiality was followed.

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..... [2]

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Turn over

Section B

Answer all questions.

- 9 (a) Describe the housing conditions for the rhesus monkeys in the study by Hassett et al. (monkey toy preferences).

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(b) Explain one similarity and one difference between the study by Hassett et al. (monkey toy preferences) and the study by Saavedra and Silverman (button phobia). Do not refer to the sample or approaches in your answer.

similarity

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difference

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[8]

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