



EXAM PAPERS PRACTICE

Psychology

Approaches Topic Questions

1

Read the item and then answer the question that follows.

Psychologists investigating theoretical models of cognitive processing study human cognitive processing. They sometimes give participants problems to solve then ask them about the experience afterwards. Typical participant responses are as follows:

Response A: 'There were too many things to think about at the same time.'

Response B: 'I had to do one task at a time, then do the next task, and so on.'

Briefly suggest how **each** of these responses might inform psychologists investigating models of human cognitive processing.

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(Total 2 marks)

2

Read the item and then answer the questions that follow.

A behaviourist researcher studying reinforcement carried out a laboratory experiment. He put a cat in a puzzle box. The cat was able to escape from the puzzle box by pulling on a string which opened the door. Each time the cat escaped it was given a food treat. At first, the cat escaped quite slowly, but with each attempt the escape time decreased.

(a) Explain which type of conditioning is being investigated in this experiment?

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(2)

Read the item and then answer the questions that follow.

The data from the laboratory experiment are shown in the table below.

Time taken for the cat to escape from the puzzle box

| Attempt | Time taken for the cat to escape from the puzzle box (seconds) |
|---------|--|
| 1 | 63 |
| 2 | 60 |
| 3 | 45 |
| 4 | 37 |
| 5 | 18 |
| 6 | 15 |
| 7 | 5 |
| 8 | 3 |

- (b) Calculate the mean time taken for the cat to escape from the puzzle box. Show your calculations.

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(2)

- (c) The researcher compared the time taken for the cat to escape at the first attempt, with the time taken for the eighth attempt. He found that after learning had taken place the cat's escape time was: Shade **one** box only.

- A 9 times faster than it was at the start.
- B 11 times faster than it was at the start.
- C 15 times faster than it was at the start.
- D 21 times faster than it was at the start.

(1)
(Total 5 marks)

3

Read the item and then answer the question that follows.

A psychologist carried out a study of social learning. As part of the procedure, he showed children aged 4-5 years a film of a 4 year-old boy stroking a puppy. Whilst the children watched the film, the psychologist commented on how kind the boy was. After the children had watched the film, the psychologist brought a puppy into the room and watched to see how the children behaved with the puppy.

Outline what is meant by social learning theory and explain how social learning might have occurred in the procedure described above.

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Extra space.....

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(Total 6 marks)

4

Discuss **two** limitations of social learning theory.

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Extra space.....

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(Total 6 marks)

5

A cognitive psychologist investigating how memory works gave participants the same word list to recall in one of two conditions. All the words were of equal difficulty.

Condition 1: Ten participants recalled the words in the same room in which they had learned the words.

Condition 2: Ten different participants recalled the words in a room that was not the same room as that in which they had learned the words.

The following results were obtained:

Mean values and standard deviations for Condition 1 and Condition 2 in a memory experiment.

| | Condition 1 | Condition 2 |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Mean | 15.9 | 10.6 |
| Standard deviation | 3.78 | 1.04 |

(a) Why are the standard deviation values found in the study above useful descriptive statistics for the cognitive psychologist?

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(2)

(b) Outline **one** problem of studying internal mental processes like memory ability by conducting experiments such as that described in part (a) above.

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(2)

(Total 4 marks)

6

Rita and Holly are identical twins who were separated at birth. When they finally met each other at the age of 35, they were surprised at how different their personalities were. Rita is much more social and out-going than Holly.

Use your knowledge of genotype and phenotype to explain this difference in their personalities.

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(Total 4 marks)

7

Outline and evaluate the social learning theory approach. Refer to evidence in your answer.

(Total 12 marks)

8

Which **one** of the following statements is **false**? Shade **one** box only.

- A Repression can lead to unpleasant memories causing distress
- B Repression causes people to have difficulty accessing unpleasant memories
- C Repression involves people choosing to forget unpleasant memories
- D Repression involves unpleasant memories being kept from conscious awareness

(Total 1 mark)

9

Which **one** of the following statements is **false**? Shade **one** box only.

- A The Id is responsible for pleasure-seeking behaviour
- B The Id is responsible for unreasonable behaviour
- C The Superego is responsible for bad behaviour
- D The Superego is responsible for guilty feelings

(Total 1 mark)

10

Read the item and then answer the question that follows.

In a laboratory study of problem-solving, cognitive psychologists asked participants to solve problems presented in different colours of ink. They found that it took longer to solve problems presented in green ink, than it did to solve problems presented in other colours. They inferred that the mental processing of problems is made more difficult when a problem is presented in green ink.

Explain what is meant by 'inference' in relation to this study.

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(Total 2 marks)

11

Read the item and then answer the question that follows.

Dominic is unhappy and lacks confidence. He also thinks he is not very good-looking and not very clever. He goes to a counselling therapist for help. The therapist suggests that Dominic lacks congruence.

Outline what is meant by 'congruence'. Explain **one** way in which Dominic might achieve 'congruence'.

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(Total 4 marks)

12

Discuss the contribution of behaviourist psychologists such as Pavlov and Skinner to our understanding of human behaviour.

(Total 16 marks)

13

A phenotype is the result of the combined effect of
Shade **one** box only.

- A neurotransmitters and environment.
- B inheritance and environment.
- C genetic makeup and neurotransmitters.
- D genotype and evolution.

(Total 1 mark)

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14

Which **one** of the following statements about evolution is **false**?
Shade **one** box only.

- A Evolution involves adapting to the environment.
- B Evolution involves breeding of those best able to survive.
- C Evolution involves common genetic material between species.
- D Evolution involves changes in behaviour from one generation to the next.

(Total 1 mark)

15

Read the item and then answer the question that follows.

Bradley has just started to play snooker and is keen to play well. He watches carefully when his partner takes a difficult shot then tries to copy the same shot. He thinks about how his partner was holding the snooker cue and whether he can do the same.

Social learning theorists refer to the role of mediational processes in learning. Referring to Bradley's experiences, explain the role of mediational processes in learning.

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(Total 4 marks)

20

Describe a procedure that behaviourists have used to study operant conditioning.

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(Total 3 marks)

21

Describe the psychodynamic approach to explaining human behaviour. Discuss strengths and limitations of this approach.

(Total 16 marks)

22

A psychology student made the following observation to his teacher.

‘The behaviourist approach has been presented to us as helpful in understanding human behaviour. However, most of the data have been obtained from research using animals.’

Briefly discuss the value of behaviourism in helping us to understand human behaviour.

(Total 5 marks)

23

A psychodynamic psychologist wished to investigate the function of dreams. He asked five friends to keep a ‘dream diary’ for a week by writing a descriptive account of their dreams as soon as they woke up in the morning. He interpreted the content of their dreams as an expression of their repressed wishes.

Referring to the study above, explain why psychodynamic psychologists have often been criticised for neglecting the rules of the scientific approach.

(Total 3 marks)

24

Outline key features of the cognitive approach in psychology. Compare the cognitive approach with the psychodynamic approach.

(Total 16 marks)

25

Explain **one** way in which social learning theory overlaps with **one other** approach in psychology.

(Total 2 marks)

26

Mr Benson is a primary school teacher. He has noticed that some of the children in his class push to the front of the queue when it is time to leave the classroom.

Suggest how Mr Benson might use vicarious reinforcement to alter the behaviour of these children. Explain your answer with reference to social learning theory.

(Total 3 marks)

27

It has been claimed that the humanistic approach has little to offer psychology. Outline and evaluate the humanistic approach in psychology. Refer to **at least one other** approach in your answer.

(Total 16 marks)

28

(a) What is meant by *genotype*?

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(1)

(b) What is meant by *phenotype*?

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(1)

(Total 2 marks)

29

Marc is often frustrated and angry, but most of the time he keeps his feelings under control. One day, during a meeting at work, Marc stormed out of the room and kicked the drinks machine so hard that the glass screen broke.

(a) Suggest how a psychodynamic psychologist might explain Marc's behaviour.

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(2)

(b) Suggest how a behaviourist psychologist might explain violent behaviour such as that shown by Marc.

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(2)
(Total 4 marks)

30

Describe the cognitive approach in psychology.
Evaluate the research methods used by cognitive psychologists.

(Total 16 marks)

31

Read the article below.

Is your child watching you?

Research by social learning theorists into gender development has shown that children learn many of their gender-related behaviours from others. There are many examples of children copying the behaviour of adults, such as a young girl trying on her mother's make-up. Of course, there are many reasons why some adult behaviours or actions seen by children are not copied.

Briefly explain what social learning theorists mean by *modelling* in relation to gender development. Refer to the article above in your answer.

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(Total 2 marks)

32

(a) Outline a psychodynamic explanation for the development of the superego.

(3)

(b) Explain how the superego might affect moral behaviour in the following situation:

Jackie sees a T-shirt that she really likes in a store. She is aware that there are no security cameras nearby and thinks how easy it would be to slip the T-shirt into her bag.

(2)
(Total 5 marks)

33

Emily very much wanted to pass her ballet examination, but after she failed the examination she did not seem upset.

Suggest **one** defence mechanism and use your knowledge of this defence mechanism to explain why Emily was not upset after failing her ballet examination.

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(Total 2 marks)

34

Outline **one** limitation of the psychodynamic approach.

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(Total 2 marks)

35

Describe and evaluate the humanistic approach in psychology.

(Total 16 marks)

36

What do social learning theorists mean by *imitation*?

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(Total 1 mark)

37

When investigating the conditioning of behaviour, Behaviourists such as Pavlov and Skinner collected quantitative data.

Outline what is meant by *quantitative data*. Give an example of quantitative data collected by a psychologist who has studied conditioning.

(Total 2 marks)

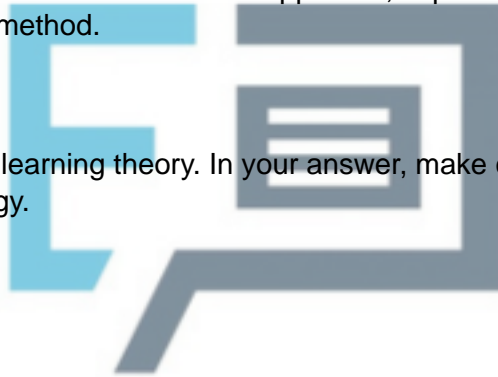
38 Give **two** reasons why Behaviourists do not collect qualitative data in their investigations. (Total 2 marks)

39 Give **two** assumptions of the cognitive approach. For **each** assumption, illustrate your answer with reference to a topic in psychology. Use a different topic for each assumption. (Total 4 marks)

40 A student asked his teacher: “Why are there so many approaches in psychology?”
The teacher replied: “Because each has something different to offer to our understanding of the human mind and behaviour. This means that every approach is unique.”
Discuss what makes the psychodynamic approach unique in psychology. Refer to other approaches in your answer. (Total 16 marks)

41 Referring to **two** assumptions of the humanistic approach, explain why humanistic psychologists have rejected the scientific method. (Total 4 marks)

42 Outline and evaluate social learning theory. In your answer, make comparisons with **at least one** other approach in psychology. (Total 16 marks)



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