Please check the examination details below before entering your candidate information

Candidate surname	Other names

Centre Number | Candidate Number

Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9–1)

Thursday 7 May 2026

Morning (Time: 1 hour 45 minutes)

Paper reference **1PS0/01**

Psychology
PAPER 1

You do not need any other materials.

Total Marks

Instructions

- Use **black** ink or ball-point pen.
- **Fill in the boxes** at the top of this page with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- Answer **all** questions.
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided – *there may be more space than you need.*

Information

- The total mark for this paper is 98.
- The marks for **each** question are shown in brackets – *use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.*
- In questions marked with an **asterisk** (*), marks will be awarded for your ability to structure your answer logically, showing how the points that you make are related or follow on from each other where appropriate.

Advice

- Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
- Try to answer every question.
- Check your answers if you have time at the end.

Turn over ▶

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SECTION A

Development: How did you develop?

Answer ALL questions. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

Some questions must be answered with a cross in a box ☒. If you change your mind about an answer, put a line through the box ☒ and then mark your new answer with a cross ☒.

1 Identify which area of the brain would be the most important in early brain development in relation to breathing and heart rate.

- ☒ **A** Temporal lobe
- ☒ **B** Medulla
- ☒ **C** Cerebellum
- ☒ **D** Occipital lobe

(Total for Question 1 = 1 mark)

2 Identify which **one** of the following would be the most helpful task to practise to support a child's physical development.

- ☒ **A** Asking children to balance across a narrow bench repeatedly.
- ☒ **B** Children watching an adult modelling turn-taking when reading in a group.
- ☒ **C** Giving children a challenging quiz on a topic they have just learned.
- ☒ **D** Using age-appropriate language on a task given to children.

(Total for Question 2 = 1 mark)

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3 (a) State **one** aim of Piaget and Inhelder (1956).

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(b) State **one** finding from Piaget and Inhelder (1956).

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(Total for Question 3 = 2 marks)

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4 Marcos visited a school which had students aged 3–16 years old. He visited a number of classes, including Red class and Purple class, and gave the students various tasks to complete, which included tasks 1 and 2.

- Task 1: Each student was given five different sized footballs. They were asked to arrange them in order of size, from smallest to largest (see **Figure 1**).
- Task 2: Each student was shown two pieces of clay which were the same size. One of the pieces of clay was then squashed into a larger flat disc (see **Figure 2**). They were asked which had more clay – the round piece or the flat disc.

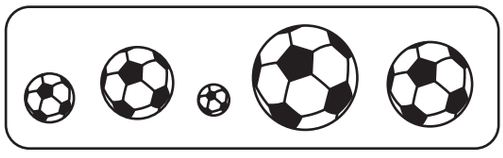

Figure 1

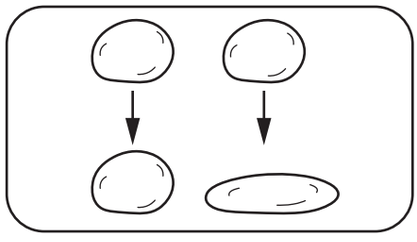

Figure 2

Table 1 shows the responses given by Red class to Task 1.

	Ordered the footballs correctly by size	
	Yes	**No**
Number of students in Red class	2	28

Table 1

(a) Explain **one** conclusion that could be made using data from **Table 1** regarding the cognitive development of the children in Red class.

(2)

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Table 2 shows the responses given by Purple class to Task 2.

	Response given to which piece has more clay after one piece was flattened		
	Left piece has more clay	**Right piece has more clay**	**Both pieces have the same amount of clay**
Number of students in Purple class	0	3	27

Table 2

(b) Explain **one** conclusion that could be made using data from **Table 2** regarding the cognitive development of the children in Purple class.

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5 Sanni is interested to know which stage of morality her friend from work is in. She used a story and asked her friend from work what they think about the person's actions.

In the story, a farmer is growing some fruit and vegetables. A man goes on to the farmer's land and takes some of the fruit and vegetables without asking. When questioned, he says he cannot afford to buy them.

Explain what Sanni's friend from work would be most likely to say about the man's actions if they were in the post-conventional stage of morality.

You should refer to the post-conventional stage of morality in your answer.

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(Total for Question 5 = 2 marks)

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6 Birgit is a sports coach who manages two different children's teams and wants to investigate the difference in her players' behaviour in response to how she speaks to them.

With one of her teams, The Bulls, who are all 7–8 years old, Birgit praises their ability by saying things such as "you're so talented" during training and matches.

With another of her teams, The Mavericks, who are all 11–12 years old, Birgit praises their effort by saying things such as "you've worked really hard" during training and matches.

After six weeks of treating the teams in this way, Birgit then asks another sports coach to watch the two teams and decide which team is trying harder to improve their skills.

(a) Explain what Birgit is likely to find in her investigation regarding her teams.

You should refer to Carol Dweck's mindset theory in your answer.

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(b) Explain **two** weaknesses of using Carol Dweck's mindset theory to account for the outcome of Birgit's investigation.

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(Total for Question 6 = 6 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION A = 16 MARKS

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SECTION B

Memory: How does your memory work?

Answer ALL questions. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

Some questions must be answered with a cross in a box ☒. If you change your mind about an answer, put a line through the box ☒ and then mark your new answer with a cross ☒.

7 Identify which **one** of the following could define the term 'reductionism'.

- ☒ **A** Finding the complete understanding for an idea.
- ☒ **B** Focussing on the interrelationships between ideas.
- ☒ **C** Looking at the whole explanation for an idea.
- ☒ **D** Simplifying an idea to the sum of its parts.

(Total for Question 7 = 1 mark)

8 Identify which **one** of the following would be the most appropriate to define 'encoding' as part of the memory process.

- ☒ **A** Recalling information from your memory.
- ☒ **B** Keeping information in your memory.
- ☒ **C** Transforming sensory information into your memory.
- ☒ **D** Rehearsing information for your memory.

(Total for Question 8 = 1 mark)

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9 Define what is meant by 'anterograde amnesia'. Use an example in your answer.

(Total for Question 9 = 2 marks)

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10 Andreas was investigating the short-term memory.

He recruited female participants from a local business to take part in an experiment. They were asked to try and remember names of guests who attended a wedding and were seated at different tables. They had to remember three names at a time and were split into two groups.

- Group A: Participants were requested to repeat the names out loud for 3 seconds, before being asked to count backwards in threes from 398 for various periods of time.
- Group B: Participants were requested to repeat the names silently for 3 seconds, before being asked to count backwards in threes from 398 for various periods of time.

After the period of time, ranging from 5–20 seconds, Andreas asked each participant to try to recall the three names.

(a) Explain which group of participants is likely to remember more names from the list of wedding guests.

You should refer to Peterson and Peterson (1959) in your answer.

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(b) Explain **one** improvement that could be made to the stimulus list given to the participants in Andreas' experiment.

(2)

(c) Explain **one** improvement that could be made to Andreas' sample of participants.

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(Total for Question 10 = 6 marks)

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11 Tanja was investigating the influence of alertness on memory.

Tanja recruited a sample of students from a local university using volunteer sampling. She instructed the students to try to remember a set of numbers (for example, '4871') flashed on a screen at the front of a room.

Tanja split the students into two separate groups:

- Group 1: The students were alerted by a sound just before each set of numbers was about to appear on the screen.
- Group 2: The students were not alerted before each set of numbers was about to appear on the screen.

Both groups of students were individually tested, had the same sets of numbers to remember and all had 10 seconds to recall the numbers.

(a) Explain the likely outcome of Tanja's investigation.

You should refer to a theory in your answer.

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(b) Explain **one** strength and **one** weakness of Tanja's investigation.

(4)

Strength

Weakness

(Total for Question 11 = 6 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 16 MARKS

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SECTION C

Psychological problems: How would psychological problems affect you?

Answer ALL questions. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

12 State **two** parts of the procedure used in Young's (2007) study.

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(Total for Question 12 = 2 marks)

13 Describe how cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) could be used as a treatment for depression.

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14 Connor has always enjoyed eating food. As a child, his favourite foods were sweets and doughnuts. He used to eat with his mum when he was upset after being called names at school. Connor's mum has experienced addiction in the past.

More recently, Connor has been consuming large quantities of unhealthy food, even when he does not feel hungry. He recently lost his job, which has led him to eat even more. Connor has missed job interviews and other important appointments as he has been eating.

Connor has been diagnosed with an addiction to food.

(a) Explain how the influence of genes could account for Connor's addiction.

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(b) Explain **one** strength and **one** weakness of the influence of genes to account for Connor's addiction.

(4)

Strength

Weakness

(Total for Question 14 = 6 marks)

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15 Sofie used to enjoy going out with her friends. They would frequently go to the cinema, go shopping and play sports together.

However, one time when they were out shopping, somebody stole her mobile phone and handbag, frightening her badly. Sofie's relationship with her long-term partner has also recently ended with a divorce.

She now does not enjoy being around other people or going out shopping or playing sports and prefers to stay in bed for most of the day. Sofie has been diagnosed with depression.

Explain **one** way that nurture could be used to explain Sofie's depression.

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QUESTION 16 BEGINS ON THE NEXT PAGE.

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16 Callum wanted to investigate the influence of celebrities on exercise behaviour.

Callum recruited participants, who were aged 18–25 years old, using opportunity sampling to take part in his investigation. The participants were asked to go to a fitness centre, and they were split into two groups:

- Group A: Participants watched videos from the internet of celebrities exercising in various ways.
- Group B: Participants watched funny videos of people's pets from the internet.

Callum then asked the participants to spend 60 minutes in the fitness centre and he monitored how much exercise they chose to do.

Table 3 shows the results of Callum's investigation.

	Average number of minutes exercising
Group A: celebrity videos	46
Group B: funny videos	25

Table 3

(a) Explain **one** conclusion Callum could make using the data from **Table 3** in terms of the influence of celebrities on exercise behaviour.

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(b) Explain **one** improvement that could be made to Callum's investigation.

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(Total for Question 16 = 4 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION C = 16 MARKS

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SECTION D

The brain and neuropsychology: How does your brain affect you?

Answer ALL questions. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

17 Describe **one** way psychological understanding of the brain has changed over time.

(Total for Question 17 = 2 marks)

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18 Describe the difference between 'visual agnosia' and 'prosopagnosia'.

(Total for Question 18 = 2 marks)

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19 Paige has two young children. She spends a lot of time with her family when she is not working. Paige works as a decorator. When she is at work, Paige frequently uses ladders and paints whole rooms.

On the way home from work, Paige was involved in a car accident. In the car accident, she injured her cerebellum.

Explain **one** way that damage to the cerebellum may affect Paige.

You should refer to the function of the cerebellum in your answer.

(Total for Question 19 = 2 marks)

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20 Frederico was investigating language processing with split brain patients.

Frederico used specialist equipment to show a number of split brain patients a picture of a tablet computer to their right hemisphere.

The patients were then asked to pick an item that was closest to what they had seen with their left hand. The objects they could select from were a shoe, a mobile phone, a fork or a glue stick.

Explain which item the patients are most likely to select with their left hand.

You should refer to Sperry (1968) in your answer.

(Total for Question 20 = 2 marks)

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21 Martina is investigating whether there are sex differences in language and spatial ability. She recruits English female and male participants from a museum in a nearby city to perform a language-based task and a spatial-based task.

- The language-based task given to the participants was to name as many animals as possible in a five-minute period.
- The spatial-based task given to the participants was to match 25 pairs of objects, where one of the pairs had been rotated 270 degrees, in a one-minute period.

Prior to the testing, Martina matched the participants on their age and intelligence level and screened them for any potential learning difficulties. All participants were tested individually in a silent room.

Table 4 shows the results of Martina's investigation.

	Average number of animals named	**Average number of objects matched (out of 25)**
Females	34.6	16.1
Males	35.2	23.4

Table 4

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(a) Explain **two** conclusions that could be made using the data from **Table 4** regarding sex differences in language and spatial ability.

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(b) Explain **two** strengths of Martina's investigation.

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(Total for Question 21 = 8 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION D = 16 MARKS

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SECTION E

Social influence: How do others affect you?

Answer ALL questions. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

Some questions must be answered with a cross in a box ☒. If you change your mind about an answer, put a line through the box ☒ and then mark your new answer with a cross ☒.

22 Define the term 'deindividuation' as it is used in psychology. Use an example in your answer.

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(Total for Question 22 = 2 marks)

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23 As part of your course, you will have studied Piliavin et al. (1969).

(a) Identify the percentage of spontaneous (within 70 seconds) helpers that were male in Piliavin et al. (1969).

(1)

- ☒ **A** 70 per cent
- ☒ **B** 80 per cent
- ☒ **C** 90 per cent
- ☒ **D** 100 per cent

(b) Identify the number of trials that help for the ill, white victim was recorded **before** 70 seconds in Piliavin et al. (1969).

(1)

- ☒ **A** 22 / 57 trials
- ☒ **B** 32 / 57 trials
- ☒ **C** 42 / 57 trials
- ☒ **D** 52 / 57 trials

(Total for Question 23 = 2 marks)

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24 Bradley enjoys going to the park with his friends. On one occasion, Bradley and his friends had left the park as they had a strict time to get home and did not want to be late.

To get home, Bradley had to pass down a very quiet, narrow path by a stream. When travelling down the path, he heard somebody in distress. Bradley could see it was someone who had been jogging, and they were lying down on the ground clutching their leg in a lot of pain.

Bradley decided to go and help the injured jogger; despite knowing he would get home late and be punished.

Explain **one** situational factor that could account for Bradley choosing to help the injured jogger.

(Total for Question 24 = 2 marks)

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25 Max and his five friends are in the park. One of Max's friends picks up a stone and throws it towards a window of the toilets in the park. All of Max's friends begin to throw stones towards the windows of the toilets.

The friends encourage Max to join in. Max chooses not to throw any stones and walks away from his friends.

Explain **one** possible reason why Max chose not to throw the stones.

You should refer to how personality affects conformity to majority influence in your answer.

(Total for Question 25 = 2 marks)

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QUESTION 26 BEGINS ON THE NEXT PAGE.

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26 Deanne was investigating whether males or females would be more obedient to authority figures.

Deanne decided to create a questionnaire using closed-ended questions about different scenarios related to whether someone would obey or not obey.

For each question, participants indicated their response on a scale from 1–5, where 1 indicated they 'strongly disagree' and 5 indicated they 'strongly agree'.

A total score for obedience was calculated out of 30, where 0 indicated 'very disobedient' and 30 indicated 'very obedient'.

The findings of Deanne's questionnaire are shown in **Table 5**.

	Whether the authority figure was wearing a uniform	**How close the authority figure was when giving the command**	**Whether there were others who chose not to obey the command given by the authority figure**
Male average obedience score (0–30)	29	22	18
Female average obedience score (0–30)	21	21	28

Table 5

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(a) Explain **two** conclusions that could be made using the data from **Table 5** in terms of obedience to authority.

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(b) Explain **one** strength and **one** weakness of Deanne's investigation.

(4)

Strength

Weakness

(Total for Question 26 = 8 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION E = 16 MARKS

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SECTION F

Answer all questions. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

***27** Heather and Saki are friends. They are both applying for jobs at different companies, where they will have to undergo a job interview. To help them feel more comfortable during the job interview, they are practising interviewing each other.

Heather says how she is unique, how much she will improve the new working environment by giving people their own responsibilities and how successfully she will lead a team of people.

In contrast, Saki says how she will fit in with others, how she will be improved by the new work environment and how she will work well with and support others as part of a team.

When discussing why they gave different responses, they believe it is because they come from different cultures that value different things.

Assess the social and cultural issues in psychology, with reference to Heather and Saki.

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(Total for Question 27 = 9 marks)

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***28** Alex has always enjoyed baking cakes and decided to enter a cake competition, which took place over several weeks.

Alex was doing very well in the competition, being able to follow complex recipes. Before the competition, he made cakes repeatedly until he could make them perfectly every time.

On the way to the competition one day, Alex fell over and banged his head. Afterwards, he found it difficult to follow the recipes and decide what to do. In one challenge, competitors were given ingredients without a recipe. Alex really struggled to recall how to make the cake required despite having made it many times before. He could see all the other competitors choosing to mix certain ingredients together, so decided to do the same even though he was unsure if it was correct.

When Alex was carrying his cake to the judges, he collapsed. When examined by the medical team, he was taken to the hospital where he was told by a doctor to withdraw from the competition, which he did.

Assess Alex's behaviour using **two** areas of psychology that you have studied.

(9)

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TOTAL FOR SECTION F = 18 MARKS
TOTAL FOR PAPER = 98 MARKS

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