



EXAM PAPERS PRACTICE

Psychology

Loads of issues and debates Topic Questions

1 Which **two** of the following statements describe a strongly deterministic view? Write the letters of your chosen answers in your answer booklet.

- A People are always responsible for their own actions
- B People behave in a random fashion
- C People's behaviour always has a cause
- D People exercise full choice over how they behave
- E People have no choice about how to act

(Total 2 marks)

2 Name **two** types of determinism.

(Total 2 marks)

3 Briefly outline **one** problem associated with alpha bias in psychological research, **and one** problem associated with beta bias in psychological research.

(Total 4 marks)

4 Briefly outline what psychologists mean by 'levels of explanation'.

(Total 2 marks)

5 Read the item and then answer the question that follows.

A prison psychologist used an idiographic approach to study offending. He asked two offenders to record their thoughts about their childhood and their offending behaviour in a journal over a period of four weeks.

Qualitative analysis of the journals showed that the offenders often thought about sad childhood events and believed that their childhood experiences had influenced their offending.

Findings from idiographic research like the study described above are often used as a basis for other investigations.

Explain how the researcher might develop the above investigation through taking a nomothetic approach.

(Total 6 marks)

6 What is meant by the 'nature-nurture debate' in psychology?

(Total 2 marks)

7

Read the item and then answer the questions that follow.

Researchers used a test to measure the mathematical reasoning ability of pairs of identical and non-identical twins. If both members of a pair had a similar score on the test, they were said to be 'concordant'. This type of study is known as a concordance study.

Outcome of the research with the concordance rates expressed as a percentage

Genetic relationship group	Concordance rate for mathematical reasoning ability
Identical twins (100% shared genes)	58%
Non-identical twins (50% shared genes)	14%

(a) Briefly explain the outcome of the study in relation to the nature-nurture debate.

(2)

(b) Some ways of establishing validity involve the use of a statistical test.

Outline how these researchers could have used a statistical test to establish **concurrent** validity of the mathematical reasoning ability test.

(4)

(Total 6 marks)

8

Which of the following statements best describes a nomothetic approach in psychology? Shade **one** box only.

Psychologists taking a nomothetic approach...

A study single cases and do not formulate general laws.

B study groups of people and do not formulate general laws.

C study groups of people and formulate general laws.

D study single cases and formulate general laws.

(Total 1 mark)

9

Read the item and then answer the questions that follow.

Extract from a newspaper article

Coping with Life's Pressures

Depression often runs in families, but many depressed people have serious social problems or have experienced traumatic events in the past. However, many people find ways to cope. What we need is the will to overcome our problems.

- (a) With reference to the item above, explain what is meant by 'determinism'. Refer to **three** types of determinism in your answer.

(6)

- (b) With reference to the item above, identify **one** influence of nature on our behaviour and **one** influence of nurture on our behaviour.

(2)

(Total 8 marks)

10

Read the item and then answer the questions that follow.

In a study of antisocial activity and social background, researchers interviewed 100 children aged 14 years. They then classified each child according to their level of antisocial activity. They concluded that 26 were 'very antisocial', 40 were 'mildly antisocial' and 34 were 'not antisocial'. The researchers found that the majority of the 'very antisocial' children attended Crayford secondary school, whereas most of the other two groups of children attended another local school.

- (a) The study ~~on the opposite page is~~ an example of socially sensitive research.

Briefly explain how the researchers could have dealt with the issue of social sensitivity in this study.

(4)

- (b) What level of measurement is being used in this study?

(1)

- (c) Explain **one** limitation of the level of measurement you have identified in your answer to (b).

(2)

(Total 7 marks)

11

Outline and evaluate reductionist explanations in psychology.

(Total 8 marks)

12

A psychologist wanted to investigate the effects of age of adoption on aggressive behaviour. He compared children who had been adopted before the age of two with children who had been adopted after the age of two. The children were observed in their school playground when they were six years old.

- (a) Suggest **two** operationalised behavioural categories the psychologist could use in his observation of aggressive behaviour. Explain how the psychologist could have carried out this observation.

Behavioural Category 1

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Behavioural Category 2

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Explanation of how the observation could have been carried out

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(4)



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(b) Explain **one** ethical issue the psychologist would have needed to consider when carrying out this research. How could the psychologist have dealt with this issue?

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Extra space

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(4)

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The psychologist wanted to investigate how aggressive the children were when they were at home. He interviewed a sample of their parents to investigate this.

- (c) Explain why using interviews might be better than using questionnaires in this situation.

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Extra space



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(4)
(Total 12 marks)

13

With reference to a behaviour, explain the distinction between hard determinism and soft determinism.

(Total 3 marks)

14

‘Nature and nurture interact; both are vital to understanding and explaining human behaviour.’

Referring to this statement, discuss the nature-nurture debate in psychology.

(Total 16 marks)

15

Joel has learned to get his own way at school by having fights with other children. His two older brothers were both excluded from school for injuring other children. Recently, Joel has also been excluded from school for attacking another child.

Explain what is meant by *determinism*. Refer to Joel’s aggressive behaviour in your answer.

(Total 4 marks)

16

'The best way to understand and explain behaviour is to reduce it to the simplest component parts.'

In the context of the holism-reductionism debate, discuss this view. Refer to **at least one** topic in your answer.

(Total 16 marks)

17

Describe **two** ethical issues that can be illustrated by Milgram's research into obedience to authority.

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Extra space

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(Total 4 marks)

18

Explain why it is sometimes necessary to deceive participants in social influence research.

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(Total 2 marks)

19

Describe **one** way in which deception has been dealt with in social influence research.

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(Total 2 marks)

20

A psychologist investigated the relationship between type of attachment in childhood and success in later adult relationships. He published a questionnaire in a local newspaper. The participants were people who read the newspaper, filled in the questionnaire and sent it to the psychologist. Participants' answers to the questions were used to decide whether they had been securely or insecurely attached as children. The participants who were identified as securely attached children were more likely to have successful adult relationships than those identified as insecurely attached children.

(a) Identify the sampling technique used in this study. Outline **one** weakness of using this sampling method.

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(3)

(b) Identify **one** ethical issue the researcher would need to consider in this research. Suggest how the researcher could deal with this ethical issue.

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(3)
(Total 6 marks)

21

(a) Milgram's experiments into obedience can be criticised as being unethical. Describe **two** ethical issues that can be illustrated by Milgram's research.

Ethical Issue One

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Ethical Issue Two

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(4)

(b) Choose **one** of the ethical issues identified in your answer to (a) and explain a way of dealing with it.

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(2)

(Total 6 marks)

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22

A case study was carried out on Peter whose brain was damaged in a motorcycle accident. Psychologists tested how many numbers he could hold in his short-term memory. They did this by reading him lists of numbers and asking him to recall the numbers immediately in the right order. He could recall a maximum of two items. The psychologists found that his long-term memory was normal.

(a) How was Peter's short-term memory after the accident different from most adults' short-term memory?

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(2)

(b) Does this case study support the multi-store model of memory? Explain your answer.

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(4)

(c) Identify **one** ethical issue associated with this case study of Peter. Suggest how psychologists could deal with this ethical issue.

Ethical issue

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How psychologists could deal with this ethical issue

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(4)
(Total 10 marks)

23

Psychologists have carried out research into the use of cognitive interviews. One possible ethical issue which might arise during this research is protection of participants from harm. Explain how psychologists could deal with this ethical issue.

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(Total 3 marks)

24

Milgram's work can be criticised for being unethical. Describe **one** way in which his work is unethical.

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(Total 2 marks)

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