



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Level Examination
June 2012

Psychology (Specification A) PSYA4

Unit 4 Psychopathology, Psychology in Action
and Research Methods

Monday 18 June 2012 9.00 am to 11.00 am

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

Time allowed

- 2 hours

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Examining Body** for this paper is AQA. The **Paper Reference** is PSYA4.
- In **Section A**, choose **one** topic. Answer **all** questions on the topic you choose. Where appropriate, refer to theories and/or studies.
- In **Section B**, choose **one** topic. Answer **all** questions on the topic you choose. Where appropriate, refer to theories and/or studies.
- In **Section C**, you should answer **all** questions.
- Do all rough work in your 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 83.
- In **Section A** and in **Section B**, you will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Section A Psychopathology

Choose **one** topic from **Section A**. Answer **all** questions on the topic you choose.

Each topic carries 24 marks.

Where appropriate, refer to theories and/or studies.

Topic: Schizophrenia

- 0 | 1** Outline and evaluate **one** biological therapy for schizophrenia and **one** psychological therapy for schizophrenia. *(8 marks + 16 marks)*
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Topic: Depression

- 0 | 2** Discuss biological explanations for depression. *(8 marks + 16 marks)*
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Topic: Phobic Disorders

- 0 | 3** Discuss explanations for phobic disorders. *(8 marks + 16 marks)*
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Topic: Obsessive Compulsive Disorder

- 0 | 4** Outline and evaluate **one** biological explanation for obsessive compulsive disorder. *(4 marks + 8 marks)*

- 0 | 5** Outline and evaluate **one or more** therapies for obsessive compulsive disorder. *(4 marks + 8 marks)*

Section B Psychology in Action

Choose **one** topic from **Section B**. Answer **all** questions on the topic you choose.

Each topic carries 24 marks.

Where appropriate, refer to theories and/or studies.

Topic: Media Psychology

- 0 | 6** Discuss psychological research into media influences on pro-social behaviour.
(4 marks + 6 marks)

- 0 | 7** A company is about to launch a new perfume aimed at young career women and wants to devise a television advertising campaign to promote the perfume.

Using your knowledge of the persuasive effects of television, what advice would you give to the company so that it could make the television advertising campaign as effective as possible? Refer to psychological research to justify your advice. (10 marks)

- 0 | 8** Outline **one or more** evolutionary explanations of the attraction of 'celebrity'. (4 marks)
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Topic: The Psychology of Addictive Behaviour

- 0 | 9** Outline and evaluate the cognitive approach to explaining problem gambling.
(4 marks + 6 marks)

- 1 | 0** Describe **one** way in which media may influence addictive behaviour. (4 marks)

- 1 | 1** Kerry has recently married and she and her partner would like to have a baby. She is keen to give up smoking. However, she has tried several times and finds that she experiences unpleasant withdrawal symptoms. Kerry's job is stressful and most of her co-workers also smoke. She has started to despair and thinks that she will never succeed.

Identify **one or more** interventions which could be used to help Kerry to stop smoking and explain, with reference to the scenario, why your chosen intervention(s) would be appropriate for Kerry. (10 marks)

Section B continues on the next page

Turn over ►

Topic: Anomalistic Psychology

1 2 Describe **one** way in which researchers have studied psychokinesis. (4 marks)

1 3 Harry had a dream last night about his aunt Susan. She emigrated to Canada years ago and he has not heard from her for three years. This morning, he received a letter from his aunt saying that she was going to visit. He thinks that he might have psychic powers.

How might psychologists explain Harry's experience? Use your knowledge of the psychology of coincidence in your answer. (4 marks)

1 4 Discuss how Harry's anomalous experience can be explained by personality factors. (6 marks)

1 5 Outline and evaluate research into out-of-body experience **and/or** near-death experience. (4 marks + 6 marks)

Section C Psychological Research and Scientific Method

Answer **all** questions in this section.

This topic carries 35 marks.

Topic: Psychological Research and Scientific Method

1 6 Explain what is meant by replicability. Why is replicability an important feature of science? (5 marks)

A maths teacher wondered whether there was a relationship between mathematical ability and musical ability. She decided to test this out on the GCSE students in the school. From 210 students, she randomly selected 10 and gave each of them two tests. She used part of a GCSE exam paper to test their mathematical ability. The higher the mark, the better the mathematical ability. She could not find a musical ability test so she devised her own. She asked each student to sing a song of their choice. She then rated their performance on a scale of 1–10, where 1 is completely tuneless and 10 is in perfect tune.

1 7 Suggest a suitable non-directional hypothesis for this study. (3 marks)

1 8 Why might the measure of musical ability used by the teacher lack validity? (3 marks)

1 9 Explain how the teacher could have checked the reliability of the mathematical ability test. (3 marks)

2 0 Explain why the teacher chose to use a random sample in this study. (2 marks)

The results of the study are given in **Table 1** below.

Table 1: Mathematical ability test scores and musical ability ratings for 10 students

Student	Mathematical ability test score	Musical ability rating
1	10	10
2	2	9
3	9	3
4	6	6
5	3	9
6	10	2
7	2	1
8	1	8
9	8	4
10	4	7

2 | 1 In your answer book, sketch a graph to show the data in **Table 1**. Give the graph an appropriate title and label the axes. *(3 marks)*

2 | 2 Discuss what the data in **Table 1** and the graph that you have sketched seem to show about the relationship between mathematical ability and musical ability. *(3 marks)*

2 | 3 The teacher noticed that most of the students who were rated highly on musical ability were left-handed. The teacher is aware that her previous definition of musical ability lacked validity.

Design a study to test whether there is a difference in the musical ability of left-handed students and right-handed students. You have access to a sixth form of 200 students.

You should:

- identify the design that you would use
- explain an appropriate sampling method and justify your choice
- describe the procedure that you would use, including details of how you would assess musical ability
- write a suitable debrief for these participants.

(10 marks)

2 | 4 In your answer book, draw a table to show how you would record your results. Identify an appropriate statistical test to analyse the data that you would collect. Justify your choice. *(3 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

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