

General Certificate of Education
January 2004
Advanced Level Examination



PSYCHOLOGY (SPECIFICATION B)
**Unit 5 Perspectives, Debates and Methods
in Psychology**

PYB5

Monday 26 January 2004 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm

In addition to this paper you will require:

a 16-page answer book.

You may use a calculator.

Time allowed: 2 hours

Instructions

- Σ Use blue or black ink or ball-point pen.
- Σ Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is PYB5.
- Σ Answer **three** questions.
- Σ Answer **one** question from **Section A**, **one** question from **Section B** and the **compulsory** question in **Section C**.
- Σ Do all rough work in the answer book. Cross through any work you do not want marked.

Information

- Σ The maximum mark for this paper is 60.
- Σ Mark allocations are shown in brackets.
- Σ Questions carrying 12 marks should be answered in continuous prose. Quality of written communication will be assessed in these answers.
- Σ In answers to questions carrying 12 marks, you will be assessed on your ability to use an appropriate form and style of writing, to organise relevant information clearly and coherently, and to use specialist vocabulary, where appropriate. The degree of legibility of your handwriting and the level of accuracy of your spelling, punctuation and grammar will also be taken into account.

SECTION A: PERSPECTIVES IN PSYCHOLOGY

Answer **one** question from this Section.

Each question carries 20 marks.

- 1** (a) Outline **two** features of the cognitive perspective in psychology. (4 marks)
- (b) Outline and briefly explain **one** way in which classical and operant conditioning differ. (4 marks)
- (c) The principles of classical and operant conditioning are often referred to in psychology in order to explain behaviour.

Select **at least two** topic areas that you have studied in psychology and discuss how well conditioning explains behaviour in these areas. (12 marks)

- 2** (a) Outline what Freud meant by the *id* and explain why it comes into conflict with the *ego*. (4 marks)
- (b) Describe **two** features of **either** Rogers' or Maslow's person-centred approach. (4 marks)
- (c) The following conversation took place between two psychology students.

Adam: "Both Rogers and Maslow have contributed interesting theories to psychology."

Sarah: "I do agree. However, the humanistic perspective has many limitations."

Discuss **two** limitations of the humanistic perspective in psychology. Refer to **at least one** other perspective in your answer. (12 marks)

SECTION B: DEBATES IN PSYCHOLOGY

Answer **one** question from this Section.

Each question carries 20 marks.

- 3 (a) The following statements represent two differing views about what is the appropriate subject matter for psychology.

“Psychology should concentrate only on observable behaviour.”

“Psychology should be concerned with the subjective experience of the individual.”

- (i) With reference to the scientific method, explain why some psychologists regard observable behaviour as the only appropriate information for their investigations. *(4 marks)*
- (ii) Outline what is meant by “subjective experience” and explain why some psychologists think that this is appropriate information for their investigations. *(4 marks)*
- (b) “Common sense is of little use in understanding and predicting human behaviour.”

Describe and discuss **at least two** reasons a psychologist might give for preferring the scientific approach to a common-sense approach. Illustrate your answer with reference to any **one** topic that you have studied in psychology. *(12 marks)*

- 4 (a) Outline and briefly discuss **one** view of the mind-body relationship. *(4 marks)*
- (b) Distinguish between holistic and reductionist explanations of behaviour. *(4 marks)*
- (c) Describe and discuss nomothetic and idiographic approaches to understanding human behaviour. Refer to **at least two** topic areas in psychology to illustrate your answer. *(12 marks)*

TURN OVER FOR THE NEXT SECTION

Turn over ►

SECTION C: METHODS IN PSYCHOLOGY

Answer **all** parts of this compulsory question which carries 20 marks.

- 5 A psychologist conducted a study to investigate the non-verbal behaviour of young children with their peers, mothers and other adult females. Previous research had shown that young children behave differently with adults and with their peers.

The psychologist placed an advertisement in a local newspaper asking mothers with a young child to volunteer for a study. The advertisement stated that the child had to be between 12 and 18 months of age. Twenty mother and child pairs were recruited for the study.

The psychologist arranged for each mother-child pair to share a playroom with another mother-child pair. The two mother-child pairs had not met before the study.

Two measures of each child's non-verbal behaviour were taken: time spent looking at another person and time spent touching another person.

Fifteen-minute video recordings were made of interactions of each child with its mother, the other child and the mother of the other child in the playroom.

From these recordings the following measures were taken:

- Σ the total length of time each child spent looking at each of the three other people who were in the playroom (its mother, the other child, and the mother of the other child);
- Σ the total length of time each child spent touching its mother, the other child, and the mother of the other child.

The results are shown in **Figure 1** below.

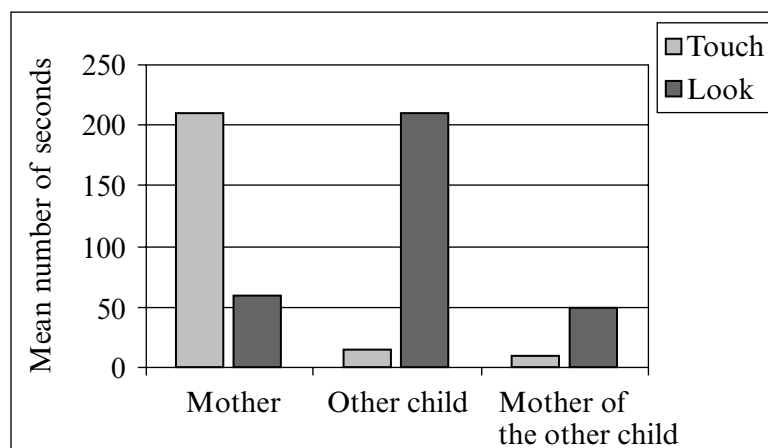


Figure 1 Mean number of seconds during a 15-minute period in which children aged 12-18 months touched and looked at their mother, the other child in the playroom and the mother of the other child

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- (a) Suggest **one** reason why the psychologist used a bar chart to display the data. *(2 marks)*
- (b) Explain what is shown by the data in **Figure 1**. *(3 marks)*
- (c) The psychologist wished to test for a significant difference between the time the children spent looking at their mother and looking at the other child.
- (i) Name an appropriate statistical test that the psychologist could have used. *(1 mark)*
- (ii) State **two** factors which justify the use of the statistical test which you have given in your answer to (c) (i) above. *(2 marks)*
- (d) Apart from the age of the children and the length of the interactions, identify **one** other variable which the psychologist controlled in the study and explain why it was important to control this variable. *(3 marks)*
- (e) The psychologist wanted to check whether his measurement of the amount of time each child “spent looking” was reliable.
- Identify and describe **one** way of checking the reliability of this measure. *(3 marks)*
- (f) Identify **one** advantage and **one** limitation of the sampling technique used by the psychologist to obtain the sample of “mother-child” pairs. *(2 marks)*
- (g) Two of the mothers spoke to the psychologist at the end of the study. One wished to know what the study was about. The other wanted to remove the video recordings of her child from the results.
- Identify the **two** ethical issues raised by the mothers and outline how the psychologist should have responded in each case. *(4 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS