

General Certificate of Education
January 2005
Advanced Level Examination



PSYCHOLOGY (SPECIFICATION B) PYB5
Unit 5 Perspectives, Debates and Methods in Psychology

Tuesday 25 January 2005 9.00 am to 11.00 am

In addition to this paper you will require:

- a 16-page answer book.
- You may use a calculator.

Time allowed: 2 hours

Instructions

- Use blue or black ink or 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 PYB5.
- Answer **three** questions.
- Answer **one** question from **Section A**, **one** question from **Section B** and the **compulsory** question in **Section C**.
- Do all rough work in the answer book. Cross through any work you do not want marked.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 60.
- Mark allocations are shown in brackets.
- Questions carrying 12 marks should be answered in continuous prose. Quality of written communication will be assessed in these answers.
- 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) It is claimed that, “Computers can carry out some of the processes that occur in human cognition.”

(i) Outline **one** similarity in the way in which humans and computers process information. *(2 marks)*

(ii) Explain **two** criticisms of computer models of human behaviour and thought. *(6 marks)*

- (b) Two students had the following conversation:

Kate: “The cognitive approach is narrow. There is too much focus on human information processing.”

Sajida: “But the approach has influenced and informed many other areas of psychology.”

Describe and discuss how the cognitive approach has been applied in **two** areas of psychology. *(12 marks)*

- 2 (a) Explain **one** reason why humanistic psychologists reject the traditional scientific experimental approach. *(4 marks)*

- (b) Briefly discuss **one** advantage of having a range of perspectives in psychology. *(4 marks)*

- (c) Mike complains that his sister is always losing things that he has lent to her.

His friend Rob says, “The reason is probably unconscious. Maybe she has hostile feelings towards you and is unaware of them.”

Describe and discuss how behaviourist **and** psychoanalytic psychologists might respond to Rob’s explanation based on unconscious processes. Refer to assumptions of **both** approaches in your answer. *(12 marks)*

SECTION B: DEBATES IN PSYCHOLOGY

Answer **one** question from this Section.

Each question carries 20 marks.

- 3** (a) Distinguish between common-sense and scientific explanations of behaviour. Refer to an example in your answer. (4 marks)
- (b) Briefly discuss **one** limitation of the scientific approach in psychology. (4 marks)
- (c) Describe and discuss the role of empirical research in psychology. Refer to **at least one** topic area in your answer. (12 marks)
- 4** (a) Explain what is meant by *determinism*. In your answer, refer to **one** perspective in psychology. (4 marks)
- (b) In the context of the holism and reductionism debate in psychology, explain what is meant by *holism*. (4 marks)
- (c) Describe and discuss the nature-nurture debate. In your answer, refer to **at least one** topic in psychology. (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 investigated the claim that people who believe in ghosts are worse at problem solving than those who do not believe in ghosts.

The psychologist devised a questionnaire to find out whether or not people believe in ghosts. Fifty people were asked to fill in the questionnaire and, on the basis of their answers, the psychologist categorised them as “believers” or “non-believers”. This resulted in 22 “believers” and 28 “non-believers”.

Following this, each of the fifty people was given a 30-item problem-solving test. The psychologist scored the number of correct responses to the thirty items by each person. The means and standard deviations were then calculated for the “believers” and “non-believers”. These are summarised in **Table 1** below.

| | “Believers” | “Non-believers” |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Mean | 12.8 | 17.5 |
| Standard deviation | 2.3 | 4.8 |

Table 1 Means and standard deviations of scores on a problem-solving test for “believers” and “non-believers”

- (a) What do the mean scores in **Table 1** indicate about the problem-solving ability of “believers” and “non-believers”? *(1 mark)*
- (b) Explain why standard deviations are often used in addition to means to summarise data. *(2 marks)*
- (c) The psychologist wished to use an inferential statistical test to see if there was a significant difference between the mean scores of the “believers” and “non-believers” on problem solving.
- (i) Name an appropriate statistical test that the psychologist might have used. *(1 mark)*
- (ii) Justify the use of the test that you have given in your answer to (c) (i) above. *(2 marks)*
- (d) The psychologist found a significant difference between the scores of “believers” and “non-believers” in problem-solving ability. Explain why the psychologist could **not** claim that belief in ghosts affects problem solving. *(2 marks)*

- (e) The questionnaire that the psychologist used to establish whether people were “believers” or “non-believers” in ghosts was made up of closed questions.
- (i) Give **one** example of a closed question that could have been used in the questionnaire. (1 mark)
 - (ii) Give **one** example of an open question that could have been used in the questionnaire. (1 mark)
 - (iii) Outline **one** reason that the psychologist might have had for choosing to use closed questions rather than open questions in the questionnaire. (2 marks)
- (f) Explain the difference between the terms *research hypothesis* and *experimental hypothesis*. (2 marks)
- (g) (i) What is meant by the term *validity*? (2 marks)
- (ii) Outline **one** way in which the psychologist could have checked the validity of the questionnaire as a measure of belief in ghosts. (2 marks)
- (h) Outline **one** way of checking the reliability of a test. (2 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS