



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Level Examination  
June 2012

## Psychology (Specification B) PSYB4

Unit 4 Approaches, Debates and Methods in Psychology

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 PSYB4.
- Choose **one** option from **Section A**, either **Option A** or **Option B**. Answer **all** questions on the option you choose.
- **All** questions in **Section B** and **Section C** are compulsory.
- 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 60.
- The 12-mark questions should be answered in continuous prose. You are advised to plan your answers carefully. In these questions, you will be marked on your ability to:
  - use good English
  - organise information clearly
  - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

---

## Section A Approaches in Psychology

There are two options in this section: Option A and Option B.

Choose **one** of these options. Answer **all** questions on the option you choose.

Each option carries 20 marks.

---

### Option A

- 0 | 1** When investigating the conditioning of behaviour, Behaviourists such as Pavlov and Skinner collected quantitative data.

Outline what is meant by *quantitative data*. Give an example of quantitative data collected by a psychologist who has studied conditioning. (2 marks)

- 0 | 2** Give **two** reasons why Behaviourists do not collect qualitative data in their investigations. (2 marks)

- 0 | 3** Give **two** assumptions of the cognitive approach. For **each** assumption, illustrate your answer with reference to a topic in psychology. Use a different topic for each assumption. (4 marks)

- 0 | 4** A student asked his teacher: "Why are there so many approaches in psychology?"

The teacher replied: "Because each has something different to offer to our understanding of the human mind and behaviour. This means that every approach is unique."

Discuss what makes the psychodynamic approach unique in psychology. Refer to other approaches in your answer. (12 marks)

---

**Option B**

---

**0 5** Referring to **two** assumptions of the humanistic approach, explain why humanistic psychologists have rejected the scientific method. *(4 marks)*

**0 6** Martha was telling her friend Sanya about her recent frightening experience.

'I was walking home by myself in the dark. Suddenly, I heard footsteps behind me and I realised that someone was getting closer to me. I saw a bus at the bus stop and decided to run. I don't think I have ever moved with such speed. I leapt on the bus – shaking, sweating and my heart was beating so fast I nearly collapsed.'

Outline the role of the central nervous system **and** autonomic nervous system in behaviour. Refer to Martha's frightening experience in your answer. *(4 marks)*

**0 7** Outline and evaluate social learning theory. In your answer, make comparisons with **at least one** other approach in psychology. *(12 marks)*

**Turn over for Section B**

**Turn over ►**

---

## Section B Debates in Psychology

Answer **all** questions in this section.

This section carries 20 marks.

---

- 0 8** Outline what is meant by *replication* in research. Explain why replication forms an essential part of the scientific approach. *(4 marks)*
- 0 9** 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. *(4 marks)*
- 1 0** '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. *(12 marks)*

**Turn to page 6 for Section C**

**Turn over for Section C**

**There are no questions printed on this page**

**Turn over ►**

## Section C Methods in Psychology

Answer **all** questions in this section.

This section carries 20 marks.

A study was carried out to test the effectiveness of a new anger management programme. The programme had been designed by a team of psychologists working in a young offenders' institution.

Fifteen male offenders aged 17–21 years took part in the programme. An anger score for each offender was obtained before the start of the programme. This score was based on a questionnaire designed by the psychologists. The questionnaire had 10 items. The maximum score was 50; the higher the score, the greater the level of anger.

The month-long programme of anger management involved 8 two-hour sessions.

Throughout the programme, the offenders were told to keep a diary of situations that made them angry and to record their anger in these situations. After the programme had ended, they were told to continue to keep their diary.

Two weeks later, after the programme had ended, a second anger score was obtained for each offender. The same questionnaire was used.

The data obtained are shown in **Table 1** below.

**Table 1: Median anger scores and the ranges before and after the programme**

	<b>Before</b>	<b>After</b>
<b>Median</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Range</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>17</b>

- 1 1** Explain why measures of dispersion are often used in addition to measures of central tendency to summarise data. Refer to the results of this study in your answer. (2 marks)
- 1 2** The psychologists chose to use a two-tailed test to analyse their data. Give **one** reason for this choice. (1 mark)

- 1 | 3** A Wilcoxon signed ranks test was used to test for a significant difference between the anger scores at the start of the programme and after the programme had ended.

The calculated value of  $T$  was found to be 22.

**Table 2: Critical values of  $T$**

Level of significance for two-tailed test	0.1	0.05	0.02
Critical value of $T$ (when $N = 15$ )	30	25	19

*T must be equal to or less than the critical value to be significant.*

Using **Table 2** above, explain whether or not the result is significant. (2 marks)

- 1 | 4** Explain why the psychologists decided to use a Wilcoxon signed ranks test to analyse the data. (3 marks)

- 1 | 5** Explain **two** possible reasons for asking each offender to keep a diary. (4 marks)

- 1 | 6** An independent researcher reviewed the design of the study and noted that there was no control group.

Explain how having a control group could have improved this study. (3 marks)

- 1 | 7** The independent researcher was also concerned that the psychologists had not checked the reliability and validity of the questionnaire used to measure the level of anger.

Outline how the psychologists could check the reliability **and** the validity of the questionnaire. (5 marks)

**END OF QUESTIONS**

**There are no questions printed on this page**