



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination  
June 2013

## Psychology (Specification B) PSYB2

Unit 2 Social Psychology, Cognitive Psychology and Individual Differences

Wednesday 5 June 2013 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

### Time allowed

- 1 hour 30 minutes

### 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 PSYB2.
- Choose **three** topics only: **one** topic from **Section A**, **one** topic from **Section B** and **one** topic from **Section C**.
- Answer **all** questions on the topics you choose.
- 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 10-mark questions you choose should be answered in continuous prose. You are advised to plan your answers. In these questions, you will be marked on your ability to:
  - use good English
  - organise information clearly
  - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

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### Section A Social Psychology

There are two topics in this section: Social Influence and Social Cognition.

Choose **one** topic from this section. Answer **all** questions on the topic you choose.

Each topic carries 20 marks.

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#### Topic: Social Influence

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- 0 | 1** Outline **one** study in which distraction as a cause of arousal was investigated. (3 marks)
- 0 | 2** Explain **one** problem involved in studying distraction as a cause of arousal. (2 marks)
- 0 | 3** One type of conformity is compliance. What do psychologists mean by the term *compliance*? (1 mark)
- 0 | 4** A group of students has to decide what to do with the money left over in their school fund. Most of them want to give the money to a local charity. However, two students, Lisa and Sean, want to buy a pool table for the common room.
- Briefly explain how **two** factors might affect whether or not Lisa and Sean will conform to the rest of the group. (4 marks)
- 0 | 5** Discuss **at least two** explanations for defiance of authority. Refer to evidence in your answer. (10 marks)

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**Topic: Social Cognition**

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- 0 6** Outline **one** study in which the primacy effect in impression formation was investigated. (3 marks)
- 0 7** Explain **one** problem involved in studying the primacy effect in impression formation. (2 marks)
- 0 8** What is meant by the *cognitive component* of an attitude? (1 mark)
- 0 9** One morning, Mr Buss was late for his first lesson; he explained to the students, 'The traffic was terrible.' The following morning, one of the students was late for the first lesson. 'Not again, Tom!' said Mr Buss, 'You're so disorganised.'
- Name and explain the type of attributional bias shown by Mr Buss. Refer to Mr Buss's comments in your answer. (4 marks)
- 1 0** Discuss social identity theory **and** competition for resources as explanations of prejudice. Refer to evidence in your answer. (10 marks)

**Turn over for the next section**

**Turn over ►**

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## Section B Cognitive Psychology

There are two topics in this section: Remembering and Forgetting and Perceptual Processes.

Choose **one** topic from this section. Answer **all** questions on the topic you choose.

Each topic carries 20 marks.

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### Topic: Remembering and Forgetting

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- 1 | 1** Psychologists have identified differences between episodic memory, procedural memory and semantic memory.
- Define **two** of these types of memory. Briefly explain **one** difference between the two types of memory that you have defined. *(3 marks)*
- 1 | 2** Explain **one** limitation of the levels of processing theory of memory. *(3 marks)*
- 1 | 3** Claire can search through family photos on her laptop and listen to music at the same time. However, she finds it difficult to read her e-mails when talking to a friend on the phone.
- Use your knowledge of the working memory model to explain why Claire is able to perform the first two tasks at the same time, but finds it difficult to perform the second two tasks at the same time. *(4 marks)*
- 1 | 4** There are many research studies of forgetting.
- Describe and evaluate **at least one** research study in which decay has been investigated, and describe and evaluate **at least one** research study in which interference has been investigated. *(10 marks)*

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**Topic: Perceptual Processes**

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- 1 | 5** Identify **one** monocular depth cue. (1 mark)
- 1 | 6** Referring to an example, explain what is meant by *shape constancy*. (2 marks)
- 1 | 7** Explain **one** limitation of Gestalt explanations of perceptual organisation. (3 marks)
- 1 | 8** Geoff drives to the supermarket in his brand new green car. He arrives at the busy car park and notices lots of other green cars. Geoff is hungry whilst at the supermarket. At home, when he unpacks his shopping, Geoff realises that he has bought a lot more food than usual.
- Briefly explain the effects of expectation **and** motivation on perception. Refer to Geoff in your answer. (4 marks)
- 1 | 9** Choose **one** distortion illusion and **one** ambiguous figure and explain how **each** of them works. Discuss what distortion illusions **and** ambiguous figures tell us about perception. (10 marks)

**Turn over for the next section**

**Turn over ►**

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### Section C Individual Differences

There are two topics in this section: Anxiety Disorders and Autism.

Choose **one** topic from this section. Answer **all** questions on the topic you choose.

Each topic carries 20 marks.

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#### Topic: Anxiety Disorders

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A researcher investigated whether people with obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) are more aware of their own heartbeat than people who do not have OCD. A matched pairs design was used. This involved 10 people with OCD and 10 people without OCD. The researcher asked each participant to estimate how fast his or her heart was beating (in beats per minute) and this was compared to his or her actual heartbeat. It was found that people with OCD were more accurate at estimating their own heartbeat than people without OCD.

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 Identify the independent variable in this study. *(1 mark)*
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 This study is a quasi-experiment. Explain why this study is a quasi-experiment. *(2 marks)*
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| 2 | 2 |
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 The researcher used a matched pairs design. Identify **one** relevant variable that could have been used to match participants in this study. *(1 mark)*
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 Outline **one** advantage of using a matched pairs design in this study. *(2 marks)*
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 Outline and briefly evaluate cognitive therapy as a treatment for OCD. *(4 marks)*
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 Discuss the psychodynamic explanation of phobias **and** the use of psychodynamic therapy as a treatment for phobias. *(10 marks)*

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**Topic: Autism**

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A researcher investigated social interaction in children. A matched pairs design was used. This involved 10 children with autism and 10 children without autism. Each child was observed in a playroom, with toys, in the presence of his or her mother. The researcher recorded the number of times each child picked up a toy and showed it to his or her mother. It was found that children with autism were much less likely to show toys to their mother than children without autism.

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 Identify the independent variable in this study. (1 mark)
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 This study is a quasi-experiment. Explain why this study is a quasi-experiment. (2 marks)
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 The researcher used a matched pairs design. Identify **one** relevant variable that could have been used to match participants in this study. (1 mark)
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 Outline **one** advantage of using a matched pairs design in this study. (2 marks)
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 What is meant by *lack of joint attention*? Refer to this study in your answer. (2 marks)
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| 3 | 1 |
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 Explain why autism is considered to be a syndrome. (2 marks)
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 Discuss biological explanations of autism. Refer to evidence in your answer. (10 marks)

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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