AQA

General Certificate of Education
Advanced Level Examination
June 2013

Psychology (Specification A)   PSYA4

**Unit 4   Psychopathology, Psychology in Action
and Research Methods**

Monday 17 June 2013   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.

PSYA4

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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 | Discuss biological explanations for schizophrenia.   *(8 marks + 16 marks)*

Topic: Depression

| 0 | 2 | Outline the clinical characteristics of depression.   *(4 marks)*

| 0 | 3 | Outline **one** biological explanation for depression.   *(4 marks)*

| 0 | 4 | Evaluate **one or more** biological explanations for depression.   *(16 marks)*

Topic: Phobic Disorders

| 0 | 5 | Discuss issues relating to the classification **and/or** diagnosis of phobic disorders.
(4 marks + 8 marks)

| 0 | 6 | Outline and evaluate **one** psychological explanation for phobic disorders.
(4 marks + 8 marks)

Topic: Obsessive Compulsive Disorder

| 0 | 7 | Discuss issues relating to the classification **and/or** diagnosis of obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD).   *(4 marks + 8 marks)*

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

Turn over for Section B

Turn over ▶

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 | 9 | Discuss what research studies have told us about the positive effects of computers **and/or** video games on behaviour.   *(4 marks + 6 marks)*

| 1 | 0 | Describe **one** explanation for the persuasiveness of television advertising.   *(4 marks)*

| 1 | 1 | As part of his research into intense fandom, a psychologist examined comments posted on a fan website for a famous 'boyband'. He found that most fans discussed concerts, favourite songs and band souvenirs. However, a small number were more intensely involved with the band. These fans spent their weekends following the band around the country when they were on tour, in the hope of catching a glimpse of their favourite celebrities. They visited the fan website several times a day to discuss the latest tweets posted by the band members on Twitter.

How would psychological research into intense fandom explain the different kinds of relationships with celebrities in the above scenario?   *(10 marks)*

Topic: The Psychology of Addictive Behaviour

| 1 | 2 | Sam has recently left school and started work. His new job is monotonous and he often feels bored. On the way home from work, he and his new workmates call at the betting shop and place a couple of bets. Sam has a few wins in the first week and finds the atmosphere very exciting. He starts to visit the betting shop after work most days, and is now spending over half of his wages on gambling.

Using your knowledge of the psychology of addictive behaviour, explain some of the reasons for Sam's addiction to gambling.   *(10 marks)*

| 1 | 3 | Outline the theory of planned behaviour as a model for addiction prevention.   *(4 marks)*

| 1 | 4 | Discuss the effectiveness of public health interventions in reducing addictive behaviour.
                                                                      (4 marks + 6 marks)

Topic: Anomalistic Psychology

| 1 | 5 | Outline **two** methodological issues involved in the study of psychokinesis.   *(4 marks)*

| 1 | 6 | Most people have several dreams each night, and a small number of these dreams come true a week or so later. Former American president, Abraham Lincoln, is believed to have dreamt of his assassination, two weeks before it happened.

Some people interpret dreams coming true as evidence for the paranormal. However, others assume that probability or coincidence can explain this anomalous experience.

Explain why some people see dreams which later come true as evidence for the paranormal, whereas other people do not. Use your knowledge of probability judgements **and/or** coincidence in your answer.   *(10 marks)*

| 1 | 7 | Discuss what research has shown about psychic healing.   *(4 marks + 6 marks)*

Turn over for Section C

Turn over ▶

Section C   Psychological Research and Scientific Method

Answer **all** questions in this section.

This topic carries 35 marks.

Topic: Psychological Research and Scientific Method

In an observational study, 100 cars were fitted with video cameras to record the driver's behaviour. Two psychologists used content analysis to analyse the data from the films. They found that 75% of accidents involved a lack of attention by the driver. The most common distractions were using a hands-free phone or talking to a passenger. Other distractions included looking at the scenery, smoking, eating, personal grooming and trying to reach something within the car.

| 1 | 8 | What is content analysis?   *(2 marks)*

| 1 | 9 | Explain how the psychologists might have carried out content analysis to analyse the film clips of driver behaviour.   *(4 marks)*

| 2 | 0 | Explain how the two psychologists might have assessed the reliability of their content analysis.   *(3 marks)*

The psychologists then designed an experiment to test the effects of using a hands-free phone on drivers' attention. They recruited a sample of 30 experienced police drivers and asked them to take part in two computer-simulated driving tests. Both tests involved watching a three-minute film of a road. Participants were instructed to click the mouse as quickly as possible, when a potential hazard (such as a car pulling out ahead) was spotted.

Each participant completed two computer-simulated driving tests:

● Test A, whilst chatting with one of the psychologists on a hands-free phone
● Test B, in silence, with no distractions.

The order in which they completed the computer tests was counterbalanced.

| 2 | 1 | Explain why the psychologists chose to use a repeated measures design in this experiment.   *(3 marks)*

| 2 | 2 | Identify **one** possible extraneous variable in this experiment. Explain how this variable may have influenced the results of this experiment.   *(3 marks)*

| 2 | 3 | Explain how **one** factor in this experiment might affect its external validity.   *(3 marks)*

| 2 | 4 | Explain **one or more** ethical issues that the psychologists should have considered in this experiment. *(4 marks)*

| 2 | 5 | Write a set of standardised instructions that would be suitable to read out to participants, before they carry out Test A, chatting on a hands-free phone. *(5 marks)*

The computer simulator measured two aspects of driver behaviour:

- the number of hazards detected by each driver
- the time taken to respond to each hazard, in seconds.

The mean scores for each of these measures is shown in **Table 1**.

Table 1 Table to show the mean number of hazards detected and mean reaction times in seconds for Test A and Test B

Mean scores	Test A: with hands-free phone	Test B: in silence
Number of hazards detected	26.0	23.0
Reaction time in seconds	0.45	0.27

The psychologists then used an inferential statistical test to assess whether there was a difference in the two conditions.

| 2 | 6 | Identify an appropriate statistical test to analyse the difference in the number of hazards detected in the two conditions of this experiment. Explain why this test of difference would be appropriate. *(3 marks)*

They found no significant difference in the number of hazards detected ($p > 0.05$), but there was a significant difference in reaction times ($p \leq 0.01$).

| 2 | 7 | Explain why the psychologists did not think that they had made a Type 1 error in relation to the difference in reaction times. *(2 marks)*

| 2 | 8 | Replication is one feature of the scientific method. The psychologists decided to replicate this experiment using a larger sample of 250 inexperienced drivers.

Explain why replication of this study would be useful. *(3 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

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