



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Level Examination  
June 2013

## Psychology (Specification B) PSYB4

Unit 4 Approaches, Debates and Methods in Psychology

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 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.

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## 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.

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### Option A

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**0 1** A psychology student made the following observation to his teacher.

'The behaviourist approach has been presented to us as helpful in understanding human behaviour. However, most of the data have been obtained from research using animals.'

Briefly discuss the value of behaviourism in helping us to understand human behaviour.  
(5 marks)

**0 2** A psychodynamic psychologist wished to investigate the function of dreams. He asked five friends to keep a 'dream diary' for a week by writing a descriptive account of their dreams as soon as they woke up in the morning. He interpreted the content of their dreams as an expression of their repressed wishes.

Referring to the study above, explain why psychodynamic psychologists have often been criticised for neglecting the rules of the scientific approach.  
(3 marks)

**0 3** Outline key features of the cognitive approach in psychology. Compare the cognitive approach with the psychodynamic approach.  
(12 marks)

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**Option B**

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- 0 4** A researcher believed that there is a biological basis to aggression in males. She predicted that there would be a significant difference between the levels of the hormone testosterone in aggressive males and the levels of the hormone testosterone in non-aggressive males. In order to test her prediction, the researcher statistically analysed the levels of testosterone in saliva samples from 20 aggressive males and 20 non-aggressive males.
- Outline **three** ways in which the study described above could be considered to be scientific. *(3 marks)*
- 0 5** Explain **one** way in which social learning theory overlaps with **one other** approach in psychology. *(2 marks)*
- 0 6** Mr Benson is a primary school teacher. He has noticed that some of the children in his class push to the front of the queue when it is time to leave the classroom.
- Suggest how Mr Benson might use vicarious reinforcement to alter the behaviour of these children. Explain your answer with reference to social learning theory. *(3 marks)*
- 0 7** It has been claimed that the humanistic approach has little to offer psychology. Outline and evaluate the humanistic approach in psychology. Refer to **at least one other** approach in your answer. *(12 marks)*

**Turn over for the next section**

**Turn over ►**

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### Section B Debates in Psychology

Answer **all** questions in this section.

This section carries 20 marks.

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**0 | 8** Explain why generalisation is an important principle of the scientific approach. (1 mark)

**0 | 9** Briefly outline **two** problems that might arise when making generalisations on the basis of psychological research findings. (4 marks)

**1 | 0** With reference to a behaviour, explain the distinction between hard determinism and soft determinism. (3 marks)

**1 | 1** 'Nature and nurture interact; both are vital to understanding and explaining human behaviour.'

Referring to this statement, discuss the nature-nurture debate in psychology. (12 marks)

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### Section C Methods in Psychology

Answer **all** questions in this section.

This section carries 20 marks.

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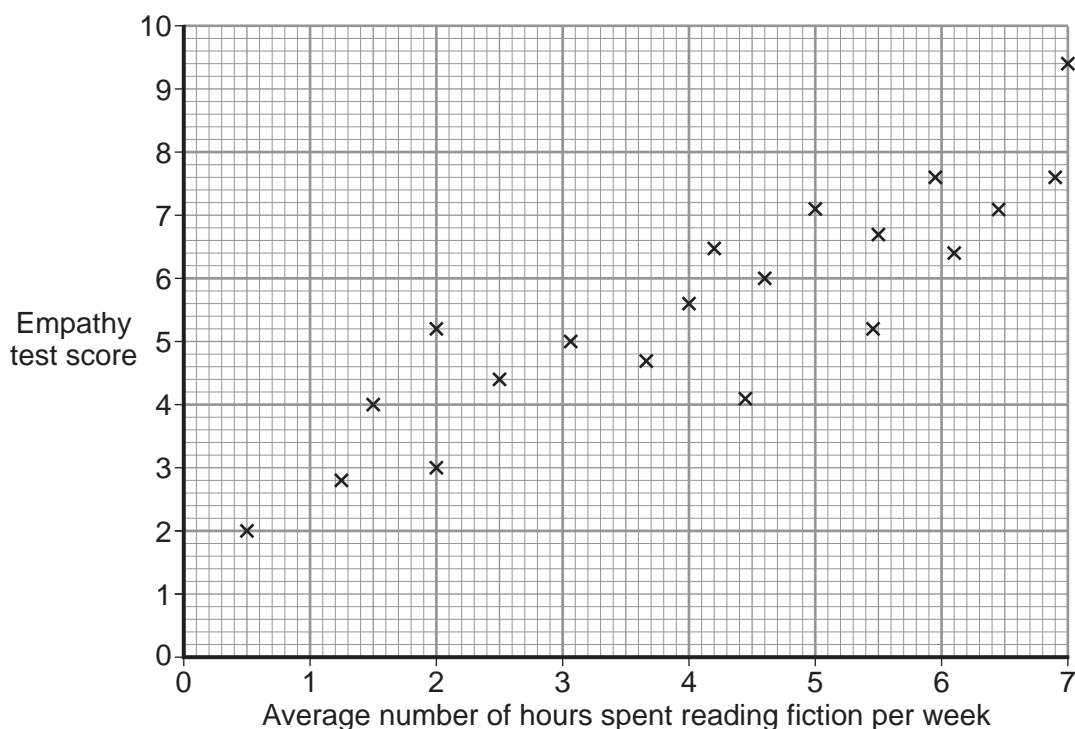
A student teacher was interested in the relationship between empathy (consideration and feelings for others) and the time spent reading fiction. She decided to investigate whether or not such a relationship was present in children.

The student teacher designed her own questionnaire to measure empathy in 8-year-old children. The higher the score achieved, the greater the empathy. Twenty children, all from one school, took part. Each child completed the questionnaire individually.

The student teacher designed another questionnaire to measure 'time spent reading fiction'. Each child was given this questionnaire to take home and complete with his or her parents over a four-week period. 'Time spent reading fiction' included the time spent by parents reading to the child as well as the time the child spent reading independently. Using the responses to this questionnaire, the student teacher calculated how much time per week, on average, each child spent reading fiction.

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

**Figure 1: Scattergram of children's scores on a test of empathy and the average number of hours spent reading fiction per week.**



**1 | 2** Outline the relationship between empathy and the average number of hours spent reading fiction per week shown in **Figure 1**. (1 mark)

**1 | 3** Name an appropriate test to determine whether or not there is a significant relationship between the two variables in **Figure 1**. Justify your answer with reference to levels of measurement. (2 marks)

The student teacher decided to use a two-tailed test.

**1 | 4** Explain why she chose to use a two-tailed test. (1 mark)

**1 | 5** Briefly explain **one** problem that might arise with the use of a two-tailed test. (1 mark)

**1 | 6** Outline **one** way in which the student teacher could have assessed the validity of the empathy questionnaire. (2 marks)

**1 | 7** Apart from the issue of validity, identify and briefly explain **one** methodological limitation of the study. (2 marks)

**1 | 8** Explain why it was appropriate for the student teacher to use a correlation study rather than an experiment. (3 marks)

**Turn over for the next question**

**Turn over ►**

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The student teacher noticed that some students on her course commented that they were better able to recall information if they could read the information rather than listen to it in lectures.

Design an experiment to test the following hypothesis:

'People who are given written information will recall more than people who hear information in spoken form.'

In your answer, you should refer to the following and justify your design decisions:

- the variables to be considered
- the experimental design to be used
- the sample
- relevant materials
- an outline of the proposed procedure.

*(8 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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