



Cambridge International AS & A Level

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PSYCHOLOGY

9990/02

Paper 2 Research Methods

For examination from 2020

SPECIMEN PAPER

1 hour 30 minutes

You must answer on the question paper.

No additional materials are needed.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **all** questions.
- Use a black or dark blue pen. You may use an HB pencil for any diagrams or graphs.
- Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the boxes at the top of the page.
- Write your answer to each question in the space provided.
- Do **not** use an erasable pen or correction fluid.
- Do **not** write on any bar codes.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 60.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].

This document has **10** pages. Blank pages are indicated.

Section A

Answer **all** questions in this section.

1 A hypothesis in a study says 'Emotions will differ following exposure to a happy or an angry stooge'.

(a) Is this a directional (one-tailed) hypothesis or a non-directional (two-tailed) hypothesis?

Include a reason for your answer.

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..... [1]

(b) Write a **null** hypothesis that could be used with the hypothesis given above.

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..... [2]

2 State **two** ways in which the research methods of an experiment and a case study are **different**.

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..... [2]

3 Explain **one** advantage of the sampling method used in the study by Milgram (obedience).

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..... [2]

4 From the study by Baron-Cohen et al. (eyes test):

(a) Describe **two** ways in which the study was valid.

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..... [4]

(b) Describe **one** way in which the study was **not** valid.

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..... [2]

5 Bandura et al. (aggression) calculated the mean number of aggressive acts in each condition.

(a) Explain how the mean of a data set is calculated.

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..... [2]

(b) Identify an alternative measure of central tendency that Bandura et al. could have used.

..... [1]

Section B

Answer **all** questions in this section.

7 Alice works in a sleep laboratory. She is looking at how much people move in different stages of sleep.

(a) Outline **one** way that Alice could tell whether her participants are dreaming.

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..... [2]

(b) Alice is measuring movement by counting the number of times the participant rolls over in bed.

Explain **one** problem with the way Alice is measuring movement.

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..... [2]

(c) Suggest an alternative way for Alice to measure the movement of her sleeping participants.

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..... [2]

8 Dr Brown was testing false memories in a class of students. He used half the class as participants in his study. The other half provided true stories about events at school. He used two of these true stories and one false story. Each participant read all three stories. Dr Brown told them the events were from their school days and that he was studying friendships. One month later he asked them to recall the events.

(a) Identify the dependent variable in this experiment and suggest how it could be operationalised.

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..... [2]

(b) Name the ethical guideline that Dr Brown broke by telling the participants he was investigating school friendships.

..... [1]

(c) Explain why it was important that Dr Brown broke the ethical guideline that you have identified in part (b).

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..... [2]

(d) Describe **one** advantage of using a repeated measures design in Dr Brown's experiment.

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..... [2]

(e) Explain why waiting a month before testing the participants could be a problem.

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..... [3]

9 Two students, Hilja and Sakri, are investigating the exercise that people take. They are using a questionnaire with 10 questions. Both students are worried about reliability in their investigation.

(a) Write **one** open and **one** closed question that Hilja and Sakri could ask.

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..... [2]

(b) Suggest how Hilja can test whether all the closed questions on the questionnaire are consistent.

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..... [3]

- (c) Sakri thinks that the way he scores the participants' answers may differ from the way Hilja scores them.

Suggest how Sakri can test whether he and Hilja are reliable in their scoring of the questionnaire.

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..... [3]

(b) Identify **one** possible weakness/limitation with the procedure you have described in your answer to part (a) and suggest how your study might be done differently to overcome the problem.

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..... [4]

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