



GCE A level

1333/01

PSYCHOLOGY

UNIT PY3

**PSYCHOLOGY: RESEARCH METHODS
AND ISSUES IN RESEARCH**

P.M. THURSDAY, 19 January 2012

1½ hours

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need a 12 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

Answer **all** questions in Section A and Section B and **two** questions from Section C.

Write your answers in the separate answer book provided.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question.

Note the information given at the start of every section.

SECTION A

1. *Read the following material and answer **all** the questions that follow.
You are advised to spend at least 5 minutes reading the information provided.*

5 Students attending a university wanted to study whether people will stop to help if they see someone visibly upset. Their hypothesis was: “the age of the upset person affects helping behaviour”. The students carried out a field experiment to test this hypothesis. A young man, a young woman, an old man and an old woman acted as confederates. Each of the confederates stood in the local square and acted in an upset manner. This included crying, shaking their head and holding their head in their hands. The study took place over four consecutive Saturdays at ten a.m., each time using a different confederate.

- (a) (i) Define what is meant by the term ‘field experiment’ (line 3). [2]
 (ii) Explain **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of a field experiment. [4]
- (b) (i) Define what is meant by the term ‘hypothesis’ (line 2). [2]
 (ii) Identify the independent variable (IV) in the above study. [1]
 (iii) Identify the dependent variable (DV) in the above study. [1]
- (c) Define what is meant by the term ‘operationalised’. [2]
- (d) Name and explain **one** sampling method that could have been used in the above study. [2]
- (e) Define what is meant by the term ‘reliability’. [2]
- (f) Explain what is meant by inter-rater reliability. [2]
- (g) ‘Informed consent’ and ‘protection from harm’ are important ethical issues. Describe what is meant by ‘informed consent’ **and** ‘protection from harm’. [4]
- (h) A Chi squared test was used to analyse the data. Give **two** reasons why this test was used. [2]

Total Marks 24

SECTION B

2. *Read the following material and answer **all** the questions that follow.
You are advised to spend at least 5 minutes reading the information provided.*

Workers in an office were interviewed by their managers who were trying to improve working relationships between managers and workers in order to improve work levels. The managers wanted to see whether types of personality could cause difficulties in working relationships. The interview comprised of ten questions which included open and closed questions. All staff were asked the same questions in the same order. An example of each type of question is given below.

2. Do you like working here?	Yes/No
10. How do you think relations between staff and management might be improved?

- (a) (i) Explain **one** disadvantage of using ‘closed questions’. [2]
(ii) Explain **one** advantage of using ‘open questions’. [2]
- (b) (i) Define what is meant by the term ‘validity’. [2]
(ii) Explain **one** factor that would affect the validity of the answer given to the first question (question 2) in the interview above. [2]
- (c) The workers are interviewed by their managers. Explain **one** way in which this may influence the answers given. [2]
- (d) (i) Qualitative data can be analysed by using content analysis. Describe what is meant by ‘content analysis’. [2]
(ii) Explain **one** advantage of using content analysis. [2]
(iii) Explain **one** disadvantage of using content analysis. [2]
- (e) Suggest **one** reason why questions are asked in the same order in interviews. [2]
- (f) Identify and explain how **one** confounding variable may have affected this study. [2]
- (g) Describe what is meant in psychological research by:
(i) ‘deception’; [2]
(ii) ‘confidentiality’. [2]
- (h) Explain **one** advantage of collecting quantitative data in an interview. [2]

Total Marks 26

Turn over.

SECTION C

Answer two of the following questions.

3. Explain the advantages of the use of the scientific method in psychology. [15]
4. Comment on ethical issues in the use of human participants in research in psychology. [15]
5. Discuss ways of dealing with ethical issues when using human participants in research in psychology. [15]