



GCE A level

1333/01

PSYCHOLOGY – PY3

Research Methods and Issues in Research

P.M. MONDAY, 10 June 2013

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

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

1. Researchers carried out a natural experiment measuring the stress levels of ten participants who continued to live near a volcano even after an eruption. These were compared with the stress levels of ten participants who lived outside the danger zone of a volcanic eruption. Stress levels were measured on a ten point scale with 1 being low stress and 10 being high stress.

	Inside danger zone	Outside danger zone
Mean stress level score	8.2	3.1

- (a) (i) Define what is meant by the term ‘natural experiment’. [2]
(ii) Explain **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of a ‘natural experiment’. [4]
- (b) (i) Define what is meant by the term ‘validity’. [2]
(ii) Identify and explain **one** issue of validity in the above study. [2]
- (c) (i) Define what is meant by the term ‘mean’. [2]
(ii) Give **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of using the mean to describe data. [4]
- (d) (i) Define what is meant by the term ‘median’. [2]
(ii) Define what is meant by the term ‘mode’. [2]
- (e) Identify:
(i) the independent variable (IV) in the above study; [1]
(ii) the dependent variable (DV) in the above study. [1]
- (f) Give **two** reasons why a Mann-Whitney U test is used to analyse results. [2]
- (g) Explain how the test-retest method can be used to check the reliability of a way of measuring. [2]

Total 26 marks

SECTION B

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

2. Research has shown that one of the major causes of eating disorders is how the media portrays women. Researchers gave a questionnaire to ten women about the effect the media, specifically magazines, has on eating disorders. The participants were chosen by opportunity sampling. The questionnaire contained twenty open questions about the role that the media may play in developing eating disorders.

Example question	Why do you think that many of the women portrayed in magazines are slim?
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- (a) Explain **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of using a questionnaire in psychological research. [4]
- (b) Identify and explain how **one** confounding variable may have affected the above study. [2]
- (c) (i) Define what is meant by the term ‘open questions’. [2]
(ii) Define what is meant by the term ‘closed questions’. [2]
- (d) In the above study the researchers asked the participants to write their name on the questionnaire.
Explain **one** way that this may have affected the answers that were given. [2]
- (e) (i) Define what is meant by the term ‘opportunity sampling’. [2]
(ii) Explain **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of using opportunity sampling to select participants in research. [4]
(iii) Identify and explain **one** other appropriate sampling method that could have been used in the above study. [2]
- (f) Describe what is meant by ‘lack of informed consent’ and ‘right to withdraw’ in psychological research. [4]

Total Marks 24

SECTION C

*Answer **two** of the following questions.*

3. Explain the advantages of the use of the scientific method in psychology. [15]
4. Consider the ethical issues of using human participants in psychological research. [15]
5. Explain ethical issues arising from **two** applications of psychology in the real world. [15]