Please write clearly in block capitals.

Centre number | | | | | | Candidate number | | | | |

Surname _____

Forename(s) _____

Candidate signature _____
I declare this is my own work.

GCSE
PSYCHOLOGY

Paper 1 Cognition and Behaviour

Thursday 8 May 2025 Morning Time allowed: 1 hour 45 minutes

For Examiner's Use	
Section	Mark
A	
B	
C	
D	
TOTAL	

Materials
For this paper you may use:
- a calculator.

Instructions
- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Fill in the boxes at the top of this page.
- Answer **all** questions.
- You must answer the questions in the spaces provided. Do not write outside the box around each page or on blank pages.
- If you need extra space for your answer(s), use the lined pages at the end of this book. Write the question number against your answer(s).
- Do all rough work in this 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 100.
- Question 21 is a synoptic question in which you will be rewarded for your ability to draw together different areas of knowledge and understanding from across the full course of study.
- Questions should be answered in continuous prose. You will be assessed on your ability to:
  – use good English
  – organise information clearly
  – use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Do not write outside the box

Section A

Memory

Answer **all** questions in the spaces provided.

Only **one** answer per question is allowed, except where stated otherwise.

For each question completely fill in the circle alongside the appropriate answer.

CORRECT METHOD ⬬ WRONG METHODS

If you want to change your answer you must cross out your original answer as shown.

If you wish to return to an answer previously crossed out, ring the answer you now wish to select as shown.

0 1 Which **one** of the following statements is **not** a feature of the multi-store model of memory?

Shade **one** box.

[1 mark]

A Attention transfers information from sensory memory to short-term memory. ⬭

B Rehearsal transfers information from short-term memory to long-term memory. ⬭

C Short-term memory has a capacity of 5–9 items. ⬭

D There are four long-term memory stores. ⬭

Do not write outside the box

0 2 The multi-store model of memory has been criticised.

Briefly evaluate the multi-store model of memory.

[2 marks]

0 3 What is meant by 'retrieval' as a process of memory?

[2 marks]

Turn over for the next question

Do not write outside the box

0 4 Read the following information.

> A researcher carried out a study with two groups of participants.
>
> In Group **A**, 10 participants were given one list of 25 everyday objects to learn. Then they were asked to write down the objects they could recall. The researcher recorded how many objects were correctly recalled.
>
> In Group **B**, 10 participants were given one list of 25 everyday objects to learn. Then they were given a second list of 25 everyday objects to learn. None of the objects on the second list were also on the first list. After this, the researcher asked the participants to write down the objects they could recall from the first list only. The researcher recorded how many objects were correctly recalled from the first list.

0 4 . 1 Identify the independent variable **and** the dependent variable in this study.

[2 marks]

Independent variable _____

_____

Dependent variable _____

_____

0 4 . 2 Different factors can affect the accuracy of memory.

Which factor did the researcher investigate in this study?

Shade **one** box.

[1 mark]

A Context ⬭

B False memory ⬭

C Interference ⬭

D Reconstructive memory ⬭

Do not write outside the box

0 4 . 3 Identify **one** extraneous variable that could have affected the results of this study.

Outline how the researcher could have controlled the extraneous variable you have identified.

[2 marks]

Extraneous variable _____

_____

_____

Outline _____

_____

_____

_____

Question 4 continues on the next page

Do not write outside the box

The results of the study are shown in **Table 1**.

Table 1 The number of objects participants correctly recalled in each group

Participant	Group A (one list)	Participant	Group B (two lists)
1	14	11	12
2	17	12	8
3	22	13	17
4	17	14	12
5	13	15	15
6	19	16	17
7	21	17	19
8	18	18	19
9	16	19	12
10	23	20	9
Total	180	Total	140

0 4 . 4 Calculate the ratio of the total number of objects correctly recalled in Group **A** compared to Group **B**.

Write this ratio in its simplest form.

[2 marks]

Do not write outside the box

0 5 Read the following conversation.

Aleksy and Taaliah are talking about their memories of primary school.

Aleksy: "I recall getting dressed for my first day at school. I felt very smart in my school uniform and kept asking my mum to take photos of me."

Taaliah: "I recall finding out about volcanoes in Year Four. I can still name the different parts of a volcano."

Outline **one** type of long-term memory.

Identify an example of this type of long-term memory from the conversation between Aleksy and Taaliah. Justify your answer.

[4 marks]

Turn over for the next question

Do not write outside the box

0 6 Describe **and** evaluate Murdock's serial position curve study.

[9 marks]

Do not write outside the box

Extra space

25

Do not write outside the box

Section B

Perception

Answer **all** questions in the spaces provided.

0 7 Some visual illusions are images that can be interpreted in more than one way.

Which **one** of the following explains how this can occur?

Shade **one** box.

[1 mark]

A Ambiguity ⬭

B Fiction ⬭

C Misinterpreted depth cues ⬭

D Size constancy ⬭

0 8 . 1 Bruner and Minturn investigated the effect of expectation on perception.

Which **two** of the following statements are features of their study?

Shade **two** boxes.

[2 marks]

A Participants were asked to report and draw what they saw when they recognised it. ⬭

B Participants were shown an unambiguous image as the test stimulus. ⬭

C Results showed that expectation did not affect perception. ⬭

D The independent variable was whether participants were shown a sequence of letters or numbers. ⬭

E The study used a repeated measures design. ⬭

Do not write outside the box

0 8 . 2 Briefly evaluate Bruner and Minturn's study.

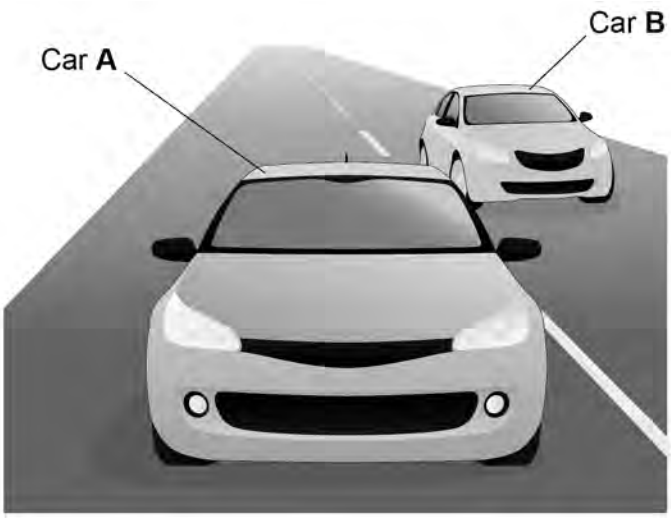
[3 marks]

Turn over for the next question

Do not write outside the box

0 9

Figure 1



0 9 . 1 Read the following information.

> 20 people were shown **Figure 1** and asked whether Car **A** or Car **B** was further away in this image.
>
> 18 people said that Car **B** was further away.

Calculate the percentage of people who said Car **B** was further away.

Show your workings.

[2 marks]

Workings:

_____ %

Do not write outside the box

0 9 . 2 Name **two** monocular depth cues that are present in **Figure 1**.

[2 marks]

0 9 . 3 Explain how **both** of the monocular depth cues you have named in Question **9.2** help people to perceive the distance of the cars in **Figure 1**.

[4 marks]

Turn over for the next question

Do not write outside the box

1 0 Read the following information.

> Hani is 10 months old and has just started crawling. One day he crawled to the top of the stairs but stopped at the edge and did not fall down. Hani's mum said, "He stopped because babies can perceive depth."

Describe Gibson's direct theory of perception.

Refer to Hani in your answer.

[6 marks]

Do not write outside the box

1 1 Evaluate Gibson's direct theory of perception.

[5 marks]

25

Turn over for Section C

Do not write outside the box

Section C

Development

Answer **all** questions in the spaces provided.

1 2 Read the following information.

A psychologist carried out an experiment to study the thinking of two groups of children. The children in Group **1** were four years old and the children in Group **2** were six years old.

The psychologist showed each child two identical balls of modelling clay (see **Figure 2**). She asked each child, "Is there more clay in one of these balls than the other, or do they both have the same amount of clay?"

Then she rolled out one of the balls into a sausage shape (see **Figure 3**). She asked each child, "Is there more clay in the ball or sausage shape, or do they both have the same amount of clay?"

She recorded the number of children in each group who correctly said that there was the same amount of clay in the ball and sausage shapes.

Figure 2 Two identical balls of modelling clay

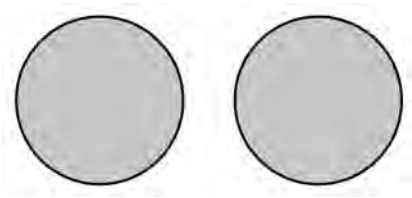
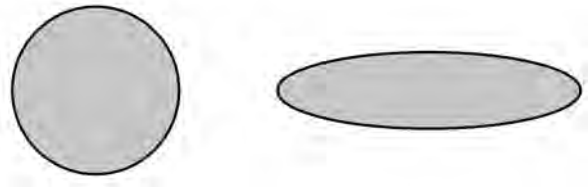


Figure 3 One of the identical balls is rolled into a sausage shape



Do not write outside the box

1 2 . 1 According to Piaget's theory of cognitive development, the children in this experiment should be in which stage of cognitive development?

Shade **one** box.

[1 mark]

A Concrete operational ⬭

B Formal operational ⬭

C Pre-operational ⬭

D Sensorimotor ⬭

Table 2 The percentage of children in each group who correctly said there was the same amount of clay in the ball and sausage shapes

Group 1 (four years old)	Group 2 (six years old)
16%	58%

1 2 . 2 The findings from some studies have been used to support and challenge Piaget's stage theory of cognitive development.

Explain how the results shown in **Table 2** can be used to evaluate Piaget's stage theory of cognitive development.

[4 marks]

Do not write outside the box

1 3 What is meant by 'self-efficacy'?

[2 marks]

1 4 Piaget used the term 'egocentrism' to refer to a child not being able to see a situation from another person's point of view.

Describe the study **Hughes** used to investigate the reduction of egocentricity.

[4 marks]

Do not write outside the box

1 5 Describe Dweck's mindset theory of learning.

[4 marks]

1 6 The following statements are findings from research into early brain development.

Read each statement and identify whether it describes the role of **nature** or **nurture** in early brain development.

Tick (✓) the correct box next to **each** statement.

[4 marks]

Evidence	**Nature**	**Nurture**
Research has shown that some infections during childhood affect brain development.		
Research has shown that playing with and speaking to a child can support healthy brain development.		
Research has shown that genes influence the development of the brain.		
Research has shown that stressful life experiences can have negative effects on the development of a child's brain.		

Do not write outside the box

1 7 Research findings show that different types of praise can affect learning. You have been asked to carry out an experiment to test these findings.

You will use two groups of 17-year-olds who have booked 20 lessons at a local driving school.

In Group **1** the driving instructor will praise students' effort during lessons.

In Group **2** the driving instructor will praise students' driving ability during lessons.

All students will complete a driving test after their 20th lesson.

Imagine you carry out the experiment using the method that has been described.

Identify the following information:

- the experimental design **and** the type of experiment you will be using
- one ethical issue you will need to consider **and** how you will deal with this
- the results you will expect to find from your experiment.

[6 marks]

25

Do not write outside the box

Section D

Research Methods

Answer **all** questions in the spaces provided.

1 8 In which **one** of the following sampling methods does every member of the target population have an equal chance of being selected?

Shade **one** box.

[1 mark]

A Opportunity ⬭

B Random ⬭

C Stratified ⬭

D Systematic ⬭

1 9 In psychological research, what is meant by a 'case study'?

[2 marks]

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Turn over for the next question

Do not write outside the box

2 0 Read the following information.

A psychologist designed a study to investigate whether happiness is linked to social media use.

For one week, participants recorded the amount of time they spent on social media and a happiness score from 1–10. 1 is very unhappy, 10 is very happy.

The mean scores for each participant are shown in **Table 3**.

Table 3 The mean daily use of social media and happiness score for each participant

Participant number	Mean daily social media use (minutes)	Mean daily happiness score (1–10)
1	110	5
2	70	7
3	100	6
4	200	3
5	150	5
6	20	9
7	140	4
8	30	8
9	120	5
10	190	4
11	10	9
12	160	5

2 0 . 1 Use **Table 3** to calculate the fraction of participants who had a mean daily social media use of less than 40 minutes. Write this fraction in its simplest form.

[2 marks]

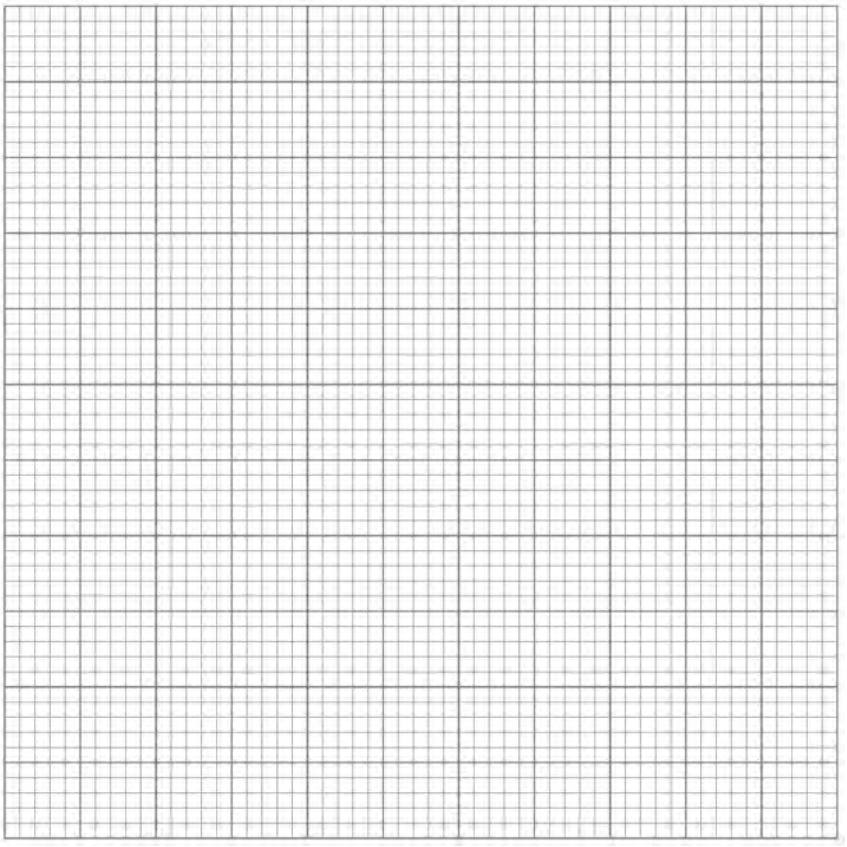
Do not write outside the box

2 0 . 2 Use the graph paper to sketch a scatter diagram to display the results shown in **Table 3**.

Provide a suitable title **and** labels for your diagram.

[4 marks]

Title _____



2 0 . 3 Identify the type of correlation the psychologist has found between happiness and social media use?

Shade **one** box.

[1 mark]

A Negative correlation ⬭

B No correlation ⬭

C Perfect correlation ⬭

D Positive correlation ⬭

Do not write outside the box

2 0 . 4 Explain the strengths **and** weaknesses of using correlations in psychological research.

In your answer, refer to the study investigating whether happiness is linked to social media use.

[6 marks]

Do not write outside the box

2 1 During your psychology course, you have learnt about a number of psychologists who have carried out different types of experiments and had their findings published.

Briefly outline what is meant by 'laboratory experiments' **and** by 'field experiments'.

Use your knowledge of **one** published experiment to discuss the strengths **and** weaknesses of **either** laboratory experiments **or** field experiments.

[9 marks]

Do not write outside the box

Extra space

END OF QUESTIONS

25

Do not write outside the box

There are no questions printed on this page

DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAGE
ANSWER IN THE SPACES PROVIDED

Do not write outside the box

Question number	Additional page, if required. Write the question numbers in the left-hand margin.

Do not write outside the box

Question number	Additional page, if required. Write the question numbers in the left-hand margin.

Do not write outside the box

Question number	Additional page, if required. Write the question numbers in the left-hand margin.

Do not write outside the box

Question number	Additional page, if required. Write the question numbers in the left-hand margin.

Do not write outside the box

There are no questions printed on this page

DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAGE
ANSWER IN THE SPACES PROVIDED

Copyright information

For confidentiality purposes, all acknowledgements of third-party copyright material are published in a separate booklet. This booklet is published after each live examination series and is available for free download from www.aqa.org.uk

Permission to reproduce all copyright material has been applied for. In some cases, efforts to contact copyright-holders may have been unsuccessful and AQA will be happy to rectify any omissions of acknowledgements. If you have any queries please contact the Copyright Team.

Copyright © 2025 AQA and its licensors. All rights reserved.