



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Level Examination  
June 2014

## Psychology (Specification A)

## PSYA4

### Unit 4 Psychopathology, Psychology in Action and Research Methods

Wednesday 11 June 2014 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 **paper reference** is PSYA4.
- In **Section A**, choose **one** topic. Answer **all** questions on the topic you choose.  
Where appropriate, refer to theories and/or studies.
- In **Section B**, choose **one** topic. Answer **all** questions on the topic you choose.  
Where appropriate, refer to theories and/or studies.
- In **Section C**, you should answer **all** questions.
- 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 83.
- In **Section A** and in **Section B** you will be marked on your ability to:
  - use good English
  - organise information clearly
  - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

**There are no questions printed on this page**

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**Section A Psychopathology**

Choose **one** topic from **Section A**. Answer **all** questions on the topic you choose.

Each topic carries 24 marks.

Where appropriate, refer to theories and/or studies.

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**Topic: Schizophrenia**

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 Discuss psychological explanations for schizophrenia. **[8 marks + 16 marks]**

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**Topic: Depression**

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 Outline and evaluate **two** psychological therapies for depression. **[8 marks + 16 marks]**

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**Topic: Phobic Disorders**

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 Discuss biological explanations for phobic disorders. **[8 marks + 16 marks]**

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**Topic: Obsessive Compulsive Disorder**

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 Outline and evaluate **one** biological explanation for obsessive compulsive disorder. **[4 marks + 8 marks]**

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 Outline and evaluate **one** psychological therapy for obsessive compulsive disorder. **[4 marks + 8 marks]**

**Turn over for Section B**

**Turn over ►**

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**Section B Psychology in Action**

Choose **one** topic from **Section B**. Answer **all** questions on the topic you choose.

Each topic carries 24 marks.

Where appropriate, refer to theories and/or studies.

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**Topic: Media Psychology**

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Eleven year-old Matt often watches 18 certificate films with his older brothers. He invites his friend John round to play and they watch a violent film together. John isn't allowed to watch violent films at home and he finds some of the scenes frightening. John's heart races and he feels sick. Matt isn't upset at all by the film and finds the violent scenes amusing. Teachers have noticed that Matt sometimes gets into fights in the playground but John avoids fights.

- 0 6** Using your knowledge of explanations of media influences on anti-social behaviour, explain the different behaviours shown by Matt and John. **[10 marks]**
- 0 7** Outline the Elaboration Likelihood Model of persuasion. **[4 marks]**
- 0 8** Discuss research into celebrity stalking. **[4 marks + 6 marks]**

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**Topic: The Psychology of Addictive Behaviour**

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- 0 9** Outline the biological approach to explaining relapse in addiction. **[4 marks]**
- 1 0** Discuss **two** risk factors which make people more vulnerable to addiction. **[4 marks + 6 marks]**

Governments use a range of strategies to dissuade people from smoking. These include banning smoking in public and workplaces, use of graphic images on cigarette packets and education programmes in schools. These programmes provide information about the dangers of smoking and help young people to develop the ability to 'just say no'.

- 1 1** Use your knowledge of the prevention of addictive behaviour to explain why these three strategies should reduce smoking. You should refer to the theory of planned behaviour in your answer. **[10 marks]**
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**Topic: Anomalistic Psychology**

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Identical twins often report that they share a special connection with each other. Many twins claim that this connection extends to the ability to read each other's minds. A study was carried out to test this claim. One member of the twin pair was asked to choose a picture from four images and think about this picture. Their twin partner had to guess which picture they had chosen. The twins were in the same room but separated by a screen.

- 1 2** What criticisms would a scientist make of this study of paranormal cognition? **[4 marks]**
- 1 3** Explain how this study would need to be changed to make it more scientific. You should refer to the criticisms that you identified in your answer to question **1 2**. **[6 marks]**
- 1 4** Outline **one** explanation for superstitious behaviour. **[4 marks]**
- 1 5** Discuss research into out of body experiences. **[4 marks + 6 marks]**

**Turn over for Section C**

**Turn over ►**

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**Section C Psychological Research and Scientific Method**

Answer **all** questions in this section.

This topic carries 35 marks.

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Read this information very carefully as you will need to refer to it in later questions.

154 patients who suffered from panic attacks were asked by a psychologist to take part in a clinical trial to assess the effectiveness of cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT). In order to select suitable participants for the trial, each patient completed a questionnaire which measured the severity of their symptoms on a scale of 1 (mild) to 10 (severe).

60 patients who had moderate symptoms with scores of 7 or 8 were selected to take part. They were randomly allocated to one of three conditions.

- Condition 1: Traditional cognitive behavioural therapy – this consisted of 12 one-hour sessions over a 12-week period.
- Condition 2: Brief cognitive behavioural therapy – this consisted of 5 one-hour sessions over a 5-week period with homework assessments.
- Condition 3: Control condition – patients were placed on a 12-week waiting list for traditional cognitive behavioural therapy. This group did not receive any form of treatment during the 12 weeks.

One week after finishing the course of therapy, patients in condition 1 and condition 2 completed the questionnaire for a second time. Patients in condition 3 completed the questionnaire for a second time at the end of the 12-week period. The three scores from this questionnaire were compared to see if there were differences in the severity of symptoms.

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 What were the aims in this study? **[2 marks]**
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 Identify **one** variable which does not appear to have been controlled in this trial. Explain how this may have influenced the outcome. **[3 marks]**
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|---|---|
| 1 | 8 |
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 What is meant by 'validity'? How could the psychologist have assessed the validity of the questionnaire used to measure the severity of symptoms? **[4 marks]**
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 The psychologist asked the 60 patients for fully informed consent to take part in this trial. What should the psychologist have told the patients so that they were able to give their consent? **[5 marks]**

**Table 1 Mean and standard deviation of severity of symptom scores after therapy**

Severity of symptom scores after therapy	Condition 1 Traditional CBT	Condition 2 Brief CBT	Condition 3 Waiting list
Mean	4.2	4.3	6.7
Standard deviation	1.2	2.4	1.3

The psychologist used a statistical test to assess the differences in severity of symptoms between patients in Condition 1 and Condition 2. The difference between traditional CBT and brief CBT was found to be non-significant ( $p > 0.05$ ).

**2 0** What do the data show about the effectiveness of the therapies for panic attacks? Refer to mean scores, standard deviations and the results of the statistical test in your answer. **[6 marks]**

**2 1** Imagine that you are writing up the report for this experiment. What is the purpose of the abstract in a psychological report? **[2 marks]**

In the discussion section of a report, researchers are expected to consider possible practical applications and implications of their research.

**2 2** Discuss applications **and/or** implications that might arise from this piece of research. **[5 marks]**

The psychologist wished to investigate which aspects of therapy were most useful. She decided to interview a sample of the patients. The purpose of the interviews was to encourage patients to talk freely and in detail about their experiences of therapy. Two of the questions used by the psychologist were:

- 'Please tell me about the most important aspects of the therapy which helped you to improve' and
- 'Please tell me about any aspects of the therapy which were less helpful to you in dealing with your symptoms'.

**2 3** Explain how you would record the data from these interviews and your reason for choosing this method. **[3 marks]**

**2 4** Explain how you would analyse the qualitative data from the interviews. **[5 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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