



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

MOCK EXAM – November 2016

GCSE PSYCHOLOGY

Research in psychology & criminal behaviour

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

OCR supplied materials:

None

Other materials required:

None

Duration: 1 hour 15 minutes



Candidate
forename

Candidate
surname

Centre number

Candidate number

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the boxes above. Please write clearly and in capital letters.
- Use black ink. HB pencil may be used for graphs and diagrams only.
- Answer **all** the questions.
- Read each question carefully. Make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
- Write your answer to each question in the space provided. If additional space is required, you should use the lined page at the end of this booklet. The question number(s) must be clearly shown.
- Do **not** write in the bar codes.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.
- The total number of marks for this paper is **40**.
- This document consists of **8** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

Answer **all** the questions.

SECTION A – Planning, Doing and Analysing Research

The Source

A psychologist investigated whether there was a difference between individuals depending on their zodiac star signs. She predicted people would have different personality characteristics for each of the 12 zodiac star signs. For example, astrological theory suggests that those people who are born under the Scorpio star sign are sensitive, imaginative and persistent.

The psychologist used a sample of 120 adult participants. Each participant was given a questionnaire consisting of closed questions asking them about their personality characteristics. For each of the characteristics listed, the participants were required to rate how much like them they are using a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 is 'not at all like me' and 10 is 'very much like me'. The psychologist also asked for each participant's date of birth so she could compare the scores with the participant's star sign.

The psychologist found no evidence that individuals' personality characteristics were affected by their zodiac star signs.

- 1 Give the aim of the study in the source.

.....
 [1]

- 2 The psychologist decided to use an alternate hypothesis.
 Identify which is the correct alternate hypothesis for this study.

Tick **one** box to show your answer.

There will be a relationship between personality scores and an individual's zodiac star sign.

☐

There will be a difference in the personality scores depending on an individual's zodiac star sign.

☐

There will be a relationship between personality scores and an individual's date of birth.

☐

[1]

3 The psychologist used a sample of 120 participants.

(a) Describe **one** way the psychologist could have obtained her sample in this study.

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.....

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..... [3]

(b) Explain **one** weakness of obtaining the sample this way.

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..... [2]

4 Identify the type of data the psychologist collected in this study.

..... [1]

5 The psychologist used closed questions in her questionnaire. She could have used open questions instead.

Outline how closed questions are different from open questions.

.....

..... [2]

6 Describe what the psychologist found in this study.

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..... [2]

7 The psychologist used a questionnaire to collect her data.

(a) Identify **one** weakness of using a questionnaire.

..... [1]

(b) State why it is a weakness in this study.

.....
..... [1]

(c) State the effect it could have on the findings in this study.

.....
..... [1]

8 The psychologist used a questionnaire. She could have used a structured interview instead.

Identify how structured interviews are different from unstructured interviews.

Draw **one** line from each box in column **A** to the correct box in column **B**.

A

B

Structured Interviews

Interviews where there are no set questions.

Interviews where there are a set number of questions.

Unstructured Interviews

Interviews where the questions are pre-set.

[2]

- 9 (a) Outline **one** advantage of using interviews.

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..... [2]

- (b) Outline **one** disadvantage of using interviews.

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..... [2]

- 10 Reliability is an important feature of psychological research.

Describe how the psychologist could have increased the reliability in this study.

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..... [3]

- 11 In a follow-up study the psychologist investigated whether there was a relationship between belief in astrology and belief in science. She predicted she would find a negative correlation.

Identify the direction of results predicted.

Tick **one** box to show your answer.

As belief in astrology increases, belief in science decreases

☐

As belief in astrology increases so does belief in science

☐

No relationship between belief in astrology and belief in science

☐

[1]

SECTION B – Planning an Investigation

You have been asked to carry out an observation to investigate whether there are differences in the way males and females study. The theory is that there will be many differences in how males and females study, such as whether they study alone or in groups.

Use this space to plan your investigation.

12 (a) State a null hypothesis for your investigation.

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..... [2]

(b) State who you would use as your sample in your investigation.

..... [1]

(c) (i) State **one** type of observation you would use for your investigation.

..... [1]

(ii) Explain why you would use the type of observation you have identified in **(i)** for your investigation.

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- (d) Briefly outline how you would carry out the observation to investigate whether there are differences in the way males and females study.

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..... [3]

- (e) The observer effect can be a problem in observations.

Explain what is meant by the observer effect.

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..... [2]

- (f) Outline **one** ethical issue you would have to consider when carrying out your investigation.

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..... [2]

- (g) Describe **one** strength of using an observation in your investigation.

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..... [2]

SECTION C - Biological Psychology

Criminal Behaviour

13

News Headlines

1. Politician states: 'Abortion will not become legal in this country.'
2. Expert brought in to try to stop gang warfare.
3. Police accused of not recording crimes accurately.
4. Serial killer blames her family for her crimes.

Using the source:

- (a) Identify the headline which shows the problems of measuring crime.

Circle the correct number below:

1 2 3 4

[1]

- (b) Identify the headline which shows the problems of defining crime.

Circle the correct number below:

1 2 3 4

[1]

- 14 (a) Outline the procedure used by Mednick
- et al*
- (1984) in their study into criminal behaviour.

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..... [2]

- (b) Describe
- one**
- limitation of the way Mednick
- et al*
- carried out their study.

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..... [2]

15 Explain **one** way psychological research has been used in crime reduction.

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..... [3]

16 Describe **one** theory that can be used to explain criminal behaviour.

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..... [6]

END OF PAPER

[illegible]

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