

Writing 13 markers: GCSE psychology

What do I need to consider...?

1. There is no way of knowing what exactly they will ask
2. However, they are essentially RM or theory focused
3. They are **synoptic**: this means you can draw upon knowledge from across the course; this will be your choice at times
4. You will be given a statement that you need to refer to, especially at the end of your answer
5. Sometimes studies or theory terminology is named in the question
6. You need to carefully PLAN! This may take a good 10 minutes
7. Your marks are split into: A01 x6 (knowledge) and A03 x7 (evaluation/discussion)
8. It is advisable you plan for 2 sides of an argument and form a conclusion; this is where your 13th mark can come from)

THINK ABOUT IT.

PLAN FOR IT.

ACT ON IT.

Side/argument 1	Side/argument 2
A01 x3	A01 x3
A03 x3	A03 x3
Conclusion – link back to the statement (1)	

A01 description marks can be awarded for knowledge and understanding of the required theory/study and any other topic linked to the focus statement/question.

For A01: to be placed in Level 2 or above, the response must refer to both the required theory/study and at least one other relevant topic.

Level 3 (5-6 marks) The response demonstrates a thorough knowledge and understanding of the two theories or studies with relevance to the question. This is done with accuracy and clarity. There is a well-developed line of reasoning which is clear and logically structured.

Level 2 (3-4 marks) The response demonstrates a good knowledge and understanding of the two theories or studies with relevance to the question.. This is done with accuracy. There is a line of reasoning presented with some structure. The information presented is in the most-part relevant and supported by some evidence.

Level 1 (1-2 marks) The response demonstrates only a basic knowledge and understanding of the two theories or studies with relevance to the question. Links to the required theory/study and/or another topic are vague/very weak. The information has some relevance and is presented with limited structure. The information is supported by limited evidence.

0 marks – No creditworthy response.

A03 marks for critical evaluation points relating to the focus statement/question in relation to the required theory/study and at least one other topic.

For A03: to be placed in Level 2 or above, the evaluation must refer to both the required theory/study and at least one other topic which is relevant.

Level 3 (5-7 marks) There is a thorough evaluation which offers breadth and/or depth covering both the required theory/study and at least one other relevant topic. Points are coherent and relevant and the response is developed in order to reach a substantiated judgement in response to the question.

Level 2 (3-4 marks) There is a good evaluation which offers breadth and/or depth covering both the required theory/study and at least one other relevant topic. Points may be brief but should still be relevant and used to reach a supported judgement in response to the question.

Level 1 (1-2 marks) There may be some basic attempt at evaluation but it will be weak and consideration of other topics may be inaccurate. Judgements will be either unclear or absent.

0 marks – No creditworthy response.



4-6 marks

1. I can explain the key words/debate in the focus statement
2. I can outline 2-3 points about the first theory or study– A01
3. I can outline one accurate limitation or weakness of the first theory or study.
4. I can outline 2-3 points about the second theory or study– A01
5. I can outline one accurate limitation or weakness of the first theory or study – A03



7-8 marks

1. I can explain the key words/debate in the focus statement offer some comment on the statement
2. I can outline 3-4 accurate points about the 1st theory or study– A01
3. I can outline two accurate limitations/weaknesses of the 1st theory or study.
4. I can outline 3-4 accurate points about the 2nd theory or study– A01
5. I can outline 2 accurate limitations/weaknesses of the 2nd theory or study – A03
6. I have added a concluding sentence about the statement.



9-11 marks

1. I can explain in detail the key words/debate in the focus statement and outline my response to the statement
2. I can outline 4-5 detailed points about the 1st theory or study– A01
3. I can outline 2 accurate limitations/weaknesses of the 1st theory or study with comments linking to the statement.
4. I can outline 4-5 detailed points about the 2nd theory or study– A01
5. I can outline 2 accurate limitations/weaknesses of the 2nd theory or study with comments linking to the statement.
6. I have added a concluding argument in response to the statement.



12-13 marks

1. I can expertly explain the key words/debate in the focus statement and outline a detailed thesis argument.
2. I can outline 5-6 well-supported points about the 1st theory or study– A01
3. I can outline 3 accurate limitations/weaknesses of the 1st theory or study with evaluation comments arguing your thesis.
4. I can outline 5-6 well-supported points about the 2nd theory or study– A01
5. I can outline 3 accurate limitations/weaknesses of the 2nd theory or study with evaluation comments arguing your thesis.
6. I have added a concluding argument that convincingly supports your argument/thesis..

* Use your knowledge and understanding from across the psychology course to explain how far you agree with the following viewpoint.

“Laboratory experiments are so artificial that we cannot reasonably apply them to real life. The only useful studies in psychology are those conducted outside of a laboratory.”

In your answer you should refer to at least two different areas of psychology you have studied. [13]

THEORIES OR STUDIES?	
Side/argument 1	Side/argument 2
Define laboratory experiments	
A01 x3	A01 x3
A03 x3	A03 x3
Conclusion – link back to the statement (1)	

Use your knowledge and understanding from across the psychology course to explain how far you agree with the following viewpoint.

"Laboratory experiments are so artificial that we cannot reasonably apply them to real life. The only useful studies in psychology are those conducted outside of a laboratory."

In your answer you should refer to at least **two** different areas of psychology you have studied.

One key study from the memory topic is Braun et al's investigation into the effects of autobiographical advertising on memory and recall. Part of their procedure involved participants being randomly allocated to one of 2 conditions in a setting unfamiliar to them; the Disney advert or the control advert. It took place over 2 weeks and involved a number of inventories used to measure their recall of childhood events both before and after watching an advert. There were a number of other controls in place to avoid demand characteristics, such as distraction tasks.

Laboratory experiments are considered the most scientific of all research methods as they have the most manipulation and control over variables. Therefore studies such as Braun et al's can establish cause and effect; the advert was shown to affect recall and supported the reconstructive theory of memory. However, they take place in a setting unfamiliar to the participant and often the tasks are very artificial. In this study the participants were asked to focus on adverts for longer than they would and in an unfamiliar context. There was also false information given deliberately.

One key study from the social influence topic is Bickman et al's investigation into the effects of uniform on obedience. This too was an experiment but rather than being in a lab was in a public place (a field experiment). Participants were unaware they were being studied as were observed responding to a request given by either: a civilian, a milkman or a security guard (the IV). It was found that people were more likely to obey an order for the guard. The next highest figure was for milkman and the lowest, the civilian.

This may be considered a more useful study due to the fact it was conducted in a natural setting; field experiments therefore have higher ecological validity, especially when pps are unaware they are being observed. This means that they are more likely to behave naturally. However, as a result of setting it takes place in there is much less control (over EVs) so it is harder to establish cause and effect. There could have been many other variables that led to the obedience (or lack of) in this study that the researcher did not know about.

In conclusion, if we are looking for the most objective results we need to consider that lab studies provide this more so than any other method. However, the statement that they do not apply to real life is justified.

Task: use the model answer above to de-construct the structure and content

1. Place ticks where you think the A01 and A03 marks have been gained
2. Use 2 different colours to do this
3. Highlight to show where the answer has signposted to the question/statement
4. Finally, break up the answer and put it into the planning box on the first page; what are the key features of A01 and A03? Try and bullet point terminology only

19* Use your knowledge and understanding from across the psychology course to explain how far you agree with the following viewpoint:

“Often it is not so much the kind of person a human is as the kind of situation in which he/ she finds themselves that determines how they will act.”

THEORIES OR STUDIES?

In your answer you should refer to learning theories of development and at least **one** different area of psychology you have studied.

Side/argument 1

Side/argument 2

What is the debate here? _____ vs. _____
_____ is
_____ is

A01 x3

A01 x3

A03 x3

A03 x3

Conclusion – link back to the statement (1)

19* Use your knowledge and understanding from across the psychology course to explain how far you agree with the following viewpoint:

'Neuropsychology is of limited use when explaining human behaviour.'

In your answer, you should refer to the biological explanation of schizophrenia and **at least one** other topic where you have studied neuropsychology to explain a behaviour. [13]

THEORIES OR STUDIES?	Side/argument 1	Side/argument 2
Define neuropsychology	A01 x3	A01 x3
A03 x3	A03 x3	A03 x3
Conclusion – link back to the statement (1)		

16* Use your knowledge and understanding from across the psychology course to explain how far you agree with the following statement.

“There are both strengths and weaknesses of taking a reductionist approach in psychology.”

In your answer, you should refer to the Activation Synthesis Theory of Dreaming and to **at least one other** theory from another area of psychology. **[13]**

THEORIES OR STUDIES?	
Side/argument 1	Side/argument 2
Explain what reductionism is	
A01 x3	A01 x3
A03 x3	A03 x3
Conclusion – link back to the statement (1)	

Use your knowledge and understanding from across the psychology course to explain how far you agree with the following viewpoint:

“People don’t have free will; the situation will determine how they will act.”

In your answer you should refer to at least two different areas of psychology you have studied. [13]

THEORIES OR STUDIES?	
Side/argument 1	Side/argument 2
What is the debate here? _____ vs. _____ _____ is _____ is	
A01 x3	A01 x3
A03 x3	A03 x3
Conclusion – link back to the statement (1)	

Use your knowledge and understanding from across the psychology course to explain how far you agree with the following viewpoint:

“Often it is better to break a behaviour down into its simplest form to help us understand it rather than looking at the individual as a whole.”

In your answer you should refer to the *biological theory of schizophrenia* and at least one different area of psychology you have studied.

THEORIES OR STUDIES?	
Side/argument 1	Side/argument 2
What is the debate here? _____ vs. _____ _____ is _____ is	
A01 x3	A01 x3
A03 x3	A03 x3
Conclusion – link back to the statement (1)	

Use your knowledge and understanding from across the psychology course to explain how far you agree with the following statement.

“The situation around a person will have a bigger impact on their behaviour than their genes.”

In your answer, you should refer to the *Theory of the Effects of Situational Factors* and to at least one other area of psychology. [13]

THEORIES OR STUDIES?	Side/argument 1	Side/argument 2
What is the debate here? _____ vs. _____ _____ is _____ is	A01 x3	A01 x3
A03 x3	A03 x3	A03 x3
Conclusion – link back to the statement (1)		

Use your knowledge and understanding from across the psychology course to explain how far you agree with the following viewpoint:

“Case studies are of little use as you can never generalise them to a wider population.”

In your answer you should refer to at least two different areas of psychology you have studied. **[13]**

THEORIES OR STUDIES?	
Side/argument 1	Side/argument 2
Explain what a case study is	
A01 x3	A01 x3
A03 x3	A03 x3
Conclusion – link back to the statement (1)	

Use your knowledge and understanding from across the psychology course to explain how far you agree with the following viewpoint.

“Studies that use self-report methods are of little use in accurately explaining human behaviour.”

In your answer you should refer to at least two different areas of psychology you have studied. **[13]**

THEORIES OR STUDIES?	
Side/argument 1	Side/argument 2
Explain what a self-report method is	
A01 x3	A01 x3
A03 x3	A03 x3
Conclusion – link back to the statement (1)	

Use your knowledge and understanding from across the psychology course to explain how far you agree with the following viewpoint.

“The majority of studies do not use samples that are representative of the wider population, therefore they have little use.”

In your answer you should refer to at least two different areas of psychology you have studied. [13]

THEORIES OR STUDIES?

Side/argument 1	Side/argument 2
Explain what a population validity is	
A01 x3	A01 x3
A03 x3	A03 x3
Conclusion – link back to the statement (1)	

Use your knowledge and understanding from across the psychology course to explain how far you agree with the following viewpoint:

“Behaviours are learned and so can easily be unlearned”

In your answer you should refer to at least two different areas of psychology you have studied. **[13]**

THEORIES OR STUDIES?	Side/argument 1	Side/argument 2
Explain what the nurture debate is (i.e. social learning)		
A01 x3	A01 x3	
A03 x3	A03 x3	
Conclusion – link back to the statement (1)		

Use your knowledge and understanding from across the psychology course to explain how far you agree with the following viewpoint:

“Freud’s approach to human behaviour is too subjective.”

In your answer you should refer to Freud and at least one other area of psychology you have studied that is considered less subjective. **[13]**

THEORIES OR STUDIES?	Side/argument 1	Side/argument 2
Explain what subjective means and why it could be a problem		
A01 x3	A01 x3	
A03 x3	A03 x3	
Conclusion – link back to the statement (1)		

Use your knowledge and understanding from across the psychology course to explain how far you agree with the following viewpoint:

'Disorders can arise from damage to the brain as well as improper functioning of the brain, but those which occur from damage are far worse'

In your answer you should refer to Amnesia from the topic of Memory, as well as at least one other area of Psychology.

THEORIES OR STUDIES?

Side/argument 1	Side/argument 2
Explain what neuropsychology is Outline in general what improper functioning can cause.... Outline in general what brain damage can cause....	
A01 x3	A01 x3
A03 x3	A03 x3
Conclusion – link back to the statement (1)	

Evaluation words

Ecological validity

Population validity

Construct validity

Internal reliability

External reliability

Interrater-reliability

Generalisability

Demand characteristics

Social desirability

Observer/ researcher bias

Control of variables

Standardisation

Bias samples

Extraneous variables

Cause and effect

Usefulness

Qualitative data

Quantitative data

Ethics

Determinism

Reductionist

Subjective