

Study Psychology

HELPING YOU ACHIEVE



A-Level Psychology Practice Paper

This is a practice paper intended for revision following the **OCR** specification.

Paper 1: Research Methods

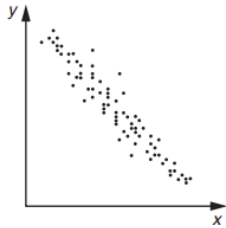
2 hours



Section A
Multiple Choice

1.

What description best describes the type of correlation shown in this scatter diagram?



- A** strong negative correlation
- B** strong positive correlation
- C** weak negative correlation
- D** weak positive correlation

Your answer ☐

[1]

2.

Which of these best describes what the variance is?

- A** measure of central tendency
- B** measure of dispersion around the mean
- C** measure of proportionality
- D** measure of quantifiable data

Your answer ☐

[1]

3.

Which of these indicates the research is significant at the 5% level of probability?

- A** $p < 0.005$
- B** $p < 0.05$
- C** $p > 0.005$
- D** $p > 0.05$

Your answer ☐

[1]

4.

What is the median for this set of data 10, 12, 6, 5, 14, 3?

- A 6.5
- B 7.5
- C 8.0
- D 16.0

Your answer

[1]

5.

Two different versions of a personality test are given to participants and then the results compared. What type of validity is being checked here?

- A concurrent
- B criterion
- C ecological
- D face

Your answer

[1]

6.

Which best describes what a 'type 1 error' refers to?

- A null hypothesis incorrectly accepted
- B null hypothesis incorrectly rejected
- C use of the wrong inferential statistical test
- D use of wrong table of critical values

Your answer

[1]

7.

In which of the following sections of the write-up of a practical report would you find a full copy of the standardised instructions read to the participants?

- A abstract
- B appendices
- C materials
- D procedure

Your answer

[1]

8.

Which two groups were compared in Chaney et al.'s (2004) study into operant conditioning?

- A children being praised for using their inhaler and children being ignored when using their inhaler
- B children using a standard inhaler and children using a modified inhaler
- C children using an inhaler and children using no inhaler
- D children with asthma and children without asthma

Your answer

[1]

9.

Which of the following is one of the criteria for use of a parametric inferential statistical test?

- A a repeated measures design must have been used
- B the level of data collected must be nominal
- C the means of each condition must be similar
- D the variance in the data in each condition must be similar

Your answer

[1]

10.

- (a) A researcher asked 50 people what their favourite type of food was and obtained the following results:

Type of food	No. of people reporting food as their 'favourite'
meat	10
fish	18
fruit	8
cereals	5
vegetables	9

What percentage of people reported fruit as their favourite?

- A 4%
- B 8%
- C 16%
- D 20%

Your answer

[1]

- (b) What kind of data is this?

- A interval
- B nominal
- C ordinal
- D qualitative

Your answer

[1]

11.

Which of the following best describes what the term 'representativeness' refers to?

- A the extent to which the findings are able to be applied to the population
- B the extent to which the findings are able to be published
- C the extent to which the findings are reliable
- D the extent to which the findings predict future outcomes

Your answer

[1]

12.

Which group of people were included as participants for Maguire's (2000) study into the hippocampi of taxi-drivers?

- A females
- B left-handed people
- C people above 32 years of age
- D people with health problems

Your answer

[1]

13.

Which of these is nominal data?

- A classifying participants as 'good', 'average' or 'poor'
- B ratings by an independent observer on a scale of 1 (very good) to 10 (very poor)
- C self-ratings by participants on a scale of 1 (very good) to 10 (very poor)
- D use of a stop-watch to record reaction time

Your answer

[1]

14.

What is the term that describes the process whereby other psychologists comment on research before it is published?

- A peer review
- B private review
- C pseudo review
- D public review

Your answer

[1]

15.

Read the following hypothesis.

H_1 : "Women who earn above average salaries will score significantly higher on a confidence test than women who earn below average salaries."

What is the independent variable in this hypothesis?

- A earnings above or below average salaries
- B high or low average salary
- C high or low score on a confidence test
- D women or men

Your answer ☐

[1]

16.

What is meant by the term 'socially desirable responses' in psychological research?

- A responses which are personal even if they are subjective
- B responses which are reliable even if they are invalid
- C responses which reflect the participants' wishes even if they are unacceptable to others
- D responses which the participants think they ought to give even if they are not true

Your answer ☐

[1]

17.

Which inferential test should a researcher use to decide whether a correlation is significant?

- A Binomial Sign test
- B Mann-Whitney U test
- C Spearman's Rho test
- D Wilcoxon Signed Ranks test

Your answer ☐

[1]

18.

What is a weakness of using a mode as a measure of central tendency?

- A it can generate a number not in the data set
- B it is easily affected by outliers
- C it is not suitable for nominal data
- D it relies on a score occurring more than once

Your answer ☐

[1]

19.

18 Which is an example of interval level data?

- A** the mass, in grams, of the brain of an individual with schizophrenia
- B** the number of nightmares experienced by an individual with schizophrenia
- C** the number of times an individual with schizophrenia has been admitted to hospital
- D** the rating of the severity of the delusions experienced by an individual with schizophrenia

Your answer

[1]

20.

A newspaper includes 12 pages of sport and eight pages of TV. What is the ratio of sport to TV?
Give your answer in its simplest form.

- A** 2:3
- B** 3:2
- C** 8:12
- D** 12:8

Your answer

[1]

Section B

Research design and response

A psychologist used an observation to investigate pro-social behaviour in pre-school children (3-4 years old). They used a structured observation by controlling the playroom where the indoor toys were kept. A covert booth was built in the corner of the room so the children would be unaware of the psychologist. For a period of 30 minutes a small group of eight children were observed using behaviour categories focused on positive play, co-operation and sharing.

21. Outline **one** strength of using a structured observation in this study. **(2)**

22. Identify and explain **two** ethical issues which would need to be considered when carrying out this observation. **(4)**

[illegible][illegible]

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with ten horizontal dashed lines, typical of primary-ruled notebook paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

26. Outline two weaknesses of conducting structured observations as shown in this study. (6)

[illegible]

You must refer to:

- You should use your own experience of carrying out an observation to inform your response. **(15)**

[illegible]

Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of three horizontal dashed lines for tracing and writing practice.

Section C

Data analysis and interpretation

Researchers wanted to investigate the relationship between final exam grades and the number of hours students' spend revising.

Previous studies have indicated a positive correlation between hours of study and exam success.

The researchers selected a random sample of 30 students from a Year 11 cohort who had just taken their GCSE exams. To assess the final exam grade, a score from each student was calculated based on their total achieved grade from 3 key GCSEs; English, Maths and Science.

GCSE Grade Profiles used:

New Grading Structure	Former Grading Structure
9	A*
8	A
7	B
6	C
5	D
4	E
3	F
2	G
U	U

At the start of Y11 each student was given a diary to record the number of hours they spent on revision in each of the 3 core subjects.

28. Write an appropriate alternate hypothesis for this study. (3)

29. Operationalise the two variables used in this study. (2)

V1 _____

V2 _____

30. (a) Explain how the researchers would have used random sampling to gather the sample of participants in this study. **(3)**

[illegible]

(b) Give one strength and one weakness of using random sampling in this study. (4)

This image shows a full page of primary-ruled paper. It features multiple sets of horizontal dashed lines, each set consisting of three lines (top, middle, bottom) that define writing rows. The lines are evenly spaced across the entire page, providing a guide for letter height and placement. There are no margins, text, or other markings present.

31. (a) The psychologist used the Spearman's ranked correlation coefficient test to analyse the data from this study. Explain why this was an appropriate test to use. **(2)**

(b) The inferential test result produced a calculated value of $+0.821$ Explain what this means. **(3)**

(c) Use **table 1** to identify whether the result is significant at the 5% probability level.

Write a significance statement for this study and outline what it tells us about hours spent revising and exam success. **(4)**

© SP2026

32. Explain what $p < 0.05$ would mean as part of the significance for the analysis of this data. **(3)**

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

33. Quantitative data was collected from the scores for each variable. Outline **one** strength and **one** weakness of quantitative data in this study. **(4)**

[illegible]

34. Variable 2 was analysed from the thirty Y11 student diaries and measured by recording the total number of hours spent revising. Discuss **one** problem with collecting data this way. **(2)**

35. (a) Outline **one** problem with conducting correlational research as shown in this study. **(3)**

(b) Explain why an interview may be a more valid way of collecting data in this study. **(2)**

END OF PAPER

Study Psychology

HELPING YOU ACHIEVE