

Exam Questions

Practise your exam skills using
past exam questions

AQA Psychology





TAKE 5

AQA Psychology

Here are a batch of past exam paper questions to develop your skills in response writing to help maximise your marks in the exam.

Each topic has only **five** questions.

Try them once you have revised a topic under timed, controlled conditions.

Check your answers against the mark scheme suggestions.



TAKE 5

Topics:

Social Influence

Memory

Attachment

Psychopathology

Approaches

Biopsychology

Research Methods

Exam Skills



AQA PSYCHOLOGY COMMAND WORDS

'Command Words' are words and phrases used in exam questions that tell you how you should answer the question. They are instructions dictating what the examiner wants from you.

Analyse

Separate information into components and identify their characteristics.

Calculate

Work out the value of something.

Choose

Select from a range of alternatives.

Comment

Present an informed opinion.

Compare

Identify similarities and/or differences.

Complete

Finish a task by adding to given information.

Consider

Review and respond to given information.

Describe

Give an account of.

Design

Set out how something will be done.

Discuss

Present key points about different ideas or strengths and weaknesses of an idea.

Distinguish

Explain ways in which two things differ. Provide detail of characteristic that enable a person to know the difference between ...

Draw

Produce a diagram.

Evaluate

Judge from available evidence.

Explain

Set out purposes or reasons.

Explain how

Give a detailed account of a process or way of doing something.

Explain why

Give a detailed account of reasons in relation to a particular situation.

Identify

Name or otherwise characterise.

Give

Produce an answer from recall or from given information.

Justify

Provide reasons, reasoned argument to support, possibly provide evidence.

Label

Provide appropriate names on a diagram.

Name

Identify using a recognised technical term.

Outline

Set out main characteristics.

Select

Choose or pick out from alternatives.

State

Express in clear terms.

Suggest

Present a possible case/solution.

Which is

Select from alternatives.

What is meant by

Give a definition.

Write

Provide information in verbatim form.

Some of these command words are used in **AO1** questions, whereas others are used in **AO2** or **AO3** questions. Look at exam papers and mark schemes to get an idea of which are which. This will help you maximise your marks in the exam.



Exam Skills



AQA PSYCHOLOGY

The **Command Words** in each exam question have been **highlighted** to help you focus on the instruction. Make sure you understand what is being asked of you.

Use this as a guide and tailor your answer accordingly.

Consider the marks allocated to each question and whether this is an **AO1, AO2 or AO3** assessment objective.



Paper 1

AQA Psychology



Social Influence Practice Q's



1. **Outline** one ethical issue that has arisen in social influence research. **Refer** to one or more social influence studies in your answer. **[4 marks]**
2. **Outline** the Authoritarian Personality as an explanation for obedience. **[4 marks]**
3. **Outline** one limitation of the Authoritarian Personality explanation for obedience. **[2 marks]**
4. A teacher was absent and left work for students to complete during the lesson. Some students in the class did not do the work their teacher had left for them. **Use** one possible explanation of resistance to social influence to **explain why** this happened. **[4 marks]**
5. A parent-toddler group meets for a trip to a soft play centre. They choose to go to MiniWorld. Julie, one of the parents, thinks MiniWorld is overpriced and would rather go to Kids' Cave. She doesn't say anything though, as all the other parents seem keen on MiniWorld. Anthony always used to take his twins to Kids' Cave. He has since joined the parent-toddler group. Anthony has heard the other parents talk about the play area at MiniWorld as being better than the one at Kids' Cave. He now takes his twins to MiniWorld on the days the group does not meet.
Discuss two explanations for conformity. **Refer** to Julie and Anthony in your answer. **[16 marks]**



Memory Practice Q's



1. Two types of long-term memory are semantic and episodic. **Outline** two ways in which episodic memories are different from semantic memories. **[4 marks]**
2. **Briefly describe** retrieval failure as an explanation of forgetting. **Outline** one limitation of this explanation. **[4 marks]**
3. A student showed participants a film of a car accident. After watching the film, each participant was asked to write down what they had seen. The student was surprised to see that the descriptions of the accident were quite different. The student's psychology teacher suggested that the participants' recall might be improved by using cognitive interview techniques.

Suggest two cognitive interview techniques that could be used to improve participants' recall of the film. **[4 marks]**

4. Two police officers are discussing the testimony of an eyewitness. The eyewitness had described a robbery she had seen. 'At first, the witness said she was convinced the suspect was wearing glasses and had a limp,' explained one of the officers, 'but later she said she may have just been repeating what she'd heard from other witnesses.' 'I'm not sure we're going to be able to use her statement,' replied the other officer.

Discuss the effect of post-event discussion on the accuracy of eyewitness testimony. **Refer** to the information above in your answer. **[8 marks]**

5. Rory is box talking with his grandparent and playing a game on his phone at the same time. The game involves matching blocks of the same colour to complete vertical and horizontal lines. It is only when his grandparent asks him to describe his route to school that Rory puts down his game so he can concentrate fully on his answer.

Discuss the working memory model. **Refer** to Rory's behaviour in your answer. **[16 marks]**



Attachment Practice Q's



1. Nine-year-old Annie asks her mother, "What was I like as a toddler?"
"Oh, you could be a bit difficult," Annie's mother replies. "You used to scream when I left you at nursery. When I returned to pick you up, you would run towards me and then push me away." **Identify** the attachment type that Annie's mother is describing. **[1 mark]**
2. **Distinguish** between two other types of attachment. **[4 marks]**
3. Different attachment types were first identified in Ainsworth's 'Strange Situation'. **Evaluate** the procedure known as the 'Strange Situation'. **[5 marks]**
4. **Outline** the learning theory of attachment. **[4 marks]**
5. **Discuss** research into the influence of early attachment on childhood and/ or adult relationships. **[16 marks]**



1. **Identify** two behavioural characteristics of depression. **[2 marks]**

2. **Outline** one limitation of systematic desensitisation as a treatment for phobias. **[3 marks]**

3. **Outline** two cognitive characteristics of obsessive-compulsive disorder. **[4 marks]**

4. **Outline** and **evaluate** one or more neural explanations of obsessive-compulsive disorder. **[8 marks]**

5. Rob is a sixth form student who has started hearing voices in his head. The voices come often, are usually threatening and make Rob feel frightened. The voices are making it difficult for Rob to complete his homework properly and he is worried about how this may affect his chances of going to university. Rob has not told anyone about his experiences, but his parents and teachers have noticed that he appears distracted, anxious and untidy.

Outline and **evaluate** failure to function adequately and deviation from ideal mental health as definitions of abnormality. **Refer** to the experiences of Rob in your answer. **[16 marks]**



Paper 2

AQA Psychology



Approaches Practice Q's



1. **State** one assumption of the cognitive approach. **[1 mark]**
2. Jed was given a detention meaning that he would miss the football match after school. Jed felt extremely angry. Later that day, Jed was called in to the Head of Year's office for kicking his locker at break time. **Identify** and **explain** the defence mechanism Jed was displaying. **[3 marks]**
3. **Describe** the ego and superego according to the psychodynamic approach. **[4 marks]**
4. **Describe how** Skinner investigated the effect of reinforcement on behaviour. **[4 marks]**
5. **Outline** the behaviourist approach. **Compare** the behaviourist approach with the biological approach. **[16 marks]**



Read the item and then answer the questions that follow.

Researchers were interested in the spatial awareness skills of motorists. They decided to investigate a possible relationship between different aspects of spatial awareness. Motorists who had between ten and twelve years of driving experience and held a clean driving licence with no penalty points were asked to complete two sets of tasks.

Set 1: To follow a series of instructions and using a map, to identify various locations correctly. This provided a map reading score for each motorist with a maximum score of 20.

Set 2: To complete a series of practical driving tasks accurately. This involved tasks such as driving between cones, driving within lines and parking inside designated spaces. Each motorist was observed completing the **Set 2** tasks by a single trained observer who rated each performance by giving the driver a rating out of 10.

The following results were obtained.

Table 1: The map reading scores and driver ratings of motorists

Participant driver	Map reading score	Driver rating
1	17	9
2	8	4
3	15	7
4	12	6
5	3	2
6	4	4
7	6	8
8	14	6
9	19	10

1. Should the hypothesis be directional? **Explain** your answer. [2 marks]
2. **Write** a suitable hypothesis for this investigation. [3 marks]

3. Briefly outline one problem of using a single trained observer to rate the participants' driving skills in the practical task. Briefly discuss how this data collection method could be modified to improve the reliability of the data collected. [6 marks]
4. The researchers decided to analyse the data using a Spearman's rho test. Explain why this is a suitable choice of test for this investigation. [3 marks]

Table 2: Table of critical values for a Spearman's rho test

		Level of significance for a two-tailed test			
		0.10	0.05	0.02	0.01
		Level of significance for a one-tailed test			
		0.05	0.025	0.01	0.005
N=	8	0.643	0.738	0.833	0.881
	9	0.600	0.700	0.783	0.833
	10	0.564	0.648	0.745	0.794

Calculated r_s must EQUAL or EXCEED the critical value for significance at the level shown.

5. After analysis of the data the researchers obtained a calculated value of $r_s = 0.808$. Using the information in Table 2 above, what conclusion can the researchers draw about the relationship between the map reading and driving skills of the motorists? Explain your answer. [4 marks]



Exam Skills



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Check your answers against the
mark scheme suggestions
in the next booklet.

