

AQA Paper 2 Exam Analysis



APPROACHES

2026

Assumption of the cognitive approach (2)

Social learning theory – scenario (6)

Outline humanistic approach, compare with psychodynamic approach (16)

2025

How Skinner investigated reinforcement (4)

How evolution influences behaviour (4)

Psychodynamic approach (16)

2024

Describe the Id and superego (4)

Wundt's method of introspection (4)

Neurochemistry on behaviour (3)

Lack of congruence in humanistic approach – scenario (2)

Congruence in humanistic approach – scenario (3)

Operant conditioning and social learning (8)

2023

Psychodynamic approach (1)

Cognitive approach (1)

Vicarious reinforcement – scenario (4)

Strength & weakness of social learning theory – scenario (6)

Biological approach - scenario (4)

Cognitive neuroscience (8)

2022

Describe psychosexual stages (6)

Social learning theory – scenario (6)

Mediational processes – scenario (4)

Self-actualisation and/or conditions of worth (8)

2021

How Pavlov studied classical conditioning (4)

Definition of ecological validity (2)

Genotype and phenotype – scenario (4)

Types of reinforcement – scenario (6)

Compare the humanistic approach with the psychodynamic approach (8)

2020

Order of Maslow's hierarchy of needs (1)

Order of Freud's stages of psychosexual development (1)

Role of defence mechanisms (2)

Strength and weakness of the psychodynamic approach (4)

Describe and evaluate operant conditioning – scenario (16)

2019

Assumption of the biological approach (1)

Assumption of operant conditioning (1)

Role of the unconscious (2)

Mediational processes in a scenario (8)

Social learning theory in a scenario (2)

Calculate the percentage in a data scenario (3)

Social learning theory in data scenario (1)

Wundt's role in the emergence of psychology as a science (8)

2018

Assumption of the cognitive approach (1)

Why schema's are and are not useful (4)

Defence mechanism (displacement) – scenario (3)

Behaviourist approach and biological approach (16)

2017

Why genotype will not reveal whether someone will suffer from Alzheimer's disease (4)

Structure of the personality according to the psychodynamic approach (4)

Outline and evaluate the humanistic approach (16)

Specimen Practice Papers

Repression (1)

ID and Superego (1)

Define inference (2)

Outline what is meant by congruence (4)

Discuss the contribution of behaviourist psychologists such as Pavlov and Skinner to our understanding of human behaviour (16)

Phenotype (1)

Evolution (1)

Social learning theorists and the role of mediational processes in learning (4)

Wundt's role in the development of Psychology (6)

One strength and one limitation of the cognitive approach (4)

One or more differences between the psychodynamic approach and the humanistic approach (8)



* NOTE: Some of the topics have been removed so will not appear in exams from 2027 onwards,
see specification for details.



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