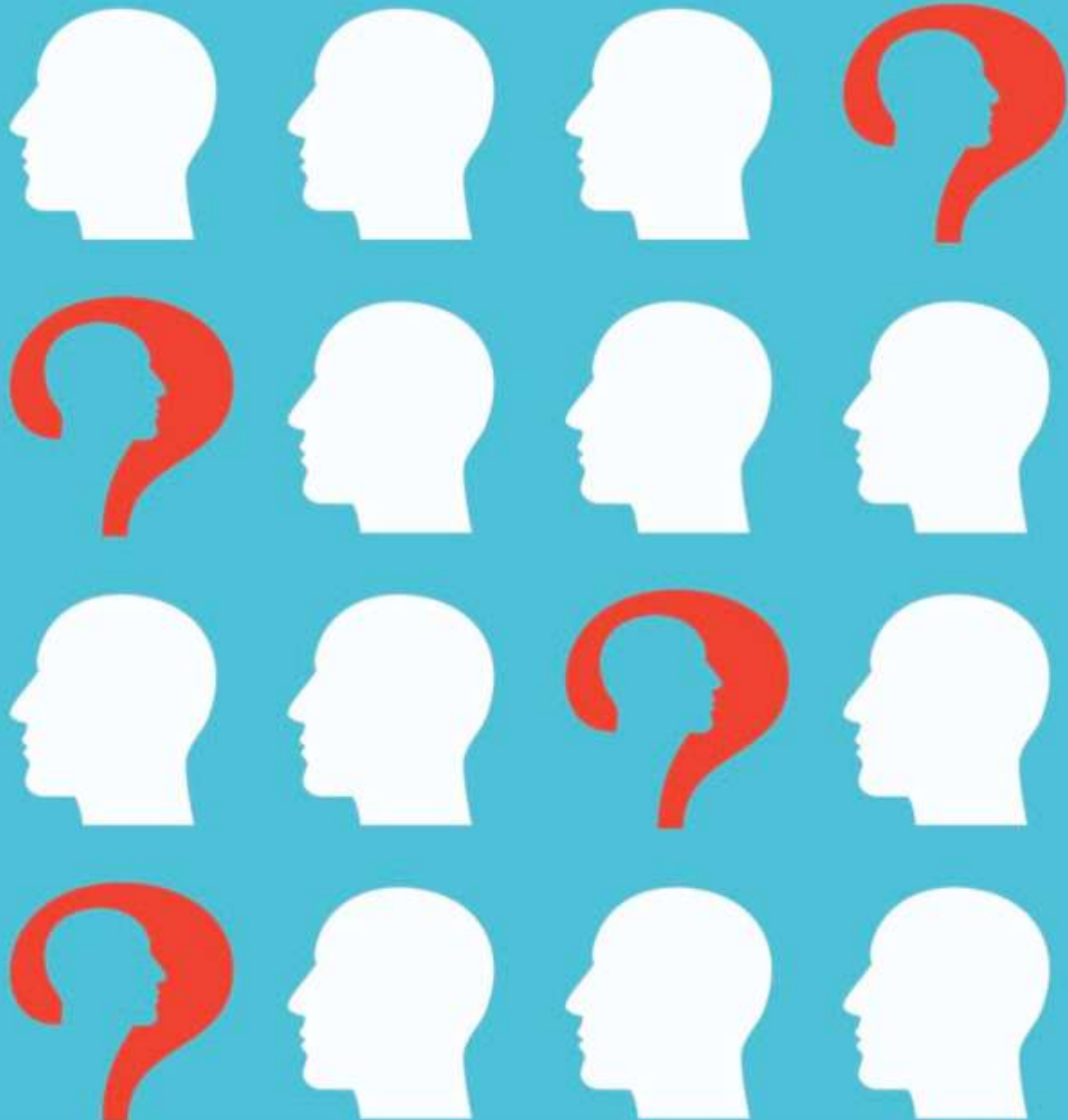


Exam Questions

Practise your exam skills using
past exam questions

OCR Psychology





TAKE 5

OCR 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:

Mental Health

Criminal

Child

Environmental

Sport & Exercise

Exam Skills



OCR 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.

Compare

Describe the similarities and differences between two or more factors.

Define

Give the exact meaning of.

Describe

Give details of, explain the main features of.

Design

Plan and present ideas to show psychological knowledge of a study or experiment.

Discuss

Give the important arguments for and against, often requires a conclusion.

Evaluate

Discuss the importance of, judge the overall worth of, make an attempt to weigh up your opinions.

Explain

Give clear reasons or make clear the meaning of, use examples to indicate how or why something happens, such as the reasoning behind a theory
Alternatively, for 'explain an application' indicate how a concept or theory can be used to understand the 'how' or 'why' behind a specific situation.

Give

Pick some key factors and name them.

Identify

Name or otherwise characterise.

Name

Identify or make a list.

Outline

Describe the key points without detail.

State

Give a concise answer with little or no supporting argument required.

Suggest

Apply general knowledge and understanding of psychology to a situation.

To what extent do you agree

Give reasons for and against, come to a conclusion with a justification of which arguments are strongest and which are weakest.

What

State the precise meaning of a term/ concept.



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



CAMBRIDGE OCR 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 3

OCR Psychology



Mental Health Q's



- 1.** **Outline** the biochemical explanation of mental illness. **(5)**

- 2.** **(a) Describe** one way mental disorders can be categorised. **(4)**

(b) Outline one problem a clinical psychologist might have when categorising mental disorders. **Use an example** of a mental disorder to **support** your answer. **(4)**

- 3.** Orla is a researcher working in the Psychology department of a university. She works with a range of different therapists. Orla thinks that non-biological treatments of mental illness are effective and she wants to conduct some research into their effectiveness to find out whether she is correct.

(a) Identify and **describe** one non-biological treatment of a disorder that Orla could consider for her research. **(4)**

(b) Explain how Orla could investigate the effectiveness of this non-biological treatment of mental illness. **(6)**

- 4.** **(a) Outline** the genetic explanation of mental illness. **(3)**

(b) Evaluate the usefulness of the genetic explanation of mental illness. **(6)**

- 5.** **To what extent** are explanations of mental illness deterministic? **(10)**



Child Psychology Q's



1.

(a) **Outline** the key research by Gibson and Walk (1960) and **use it to show the extent** to which depth can be perceived by infants. **(10)**

(b) **Discuss** the reliability of research into perceptual development. **(15)**

(c) Nina is the manager of a pre-school playgroup for children aged 2–5 years. She is concerned that young children have too much 'screen time' (i.e. playing on electronic devices) so wants to use play to aid their development.

Outline at least one play strategy a psychologist might suggest to Nina to use with the children at her playgroup to help develop their perception. **(10)**

2.

(a) **Outline** the key research by Barkley-Levenson and Galván (2014) and **explain what** it tells us about brain development. **(10)**

(b) **Discuss** whether research into pre-adult brain development is scientific. **(15)**

(c) Emma is Head of Sixth Form in a secondary school. She is worried about risk-taking behaviour among sixth form students at the school.

Outline at least one suggestion a psychologist, using their knowledge of brain development, might make to Emma about how to reduce risk-taking behaviours among students in the sixth form at her school. **(10)**



1.

(a) **Outline** the key research by Hall and Player (2008) and **use it to show the extent** to which bias affects the collection and processing of forensic evidence. **(10)**

(b) **Discuss to what extent** research into the collection and processing of forensic evidence is scientific. **(15)**

(c) From a crime scene, the police recover different examples of forensic evidence including fingerprints and a handwritten note. Experts will analyse the forensic evidence to help the police identify a suspect.

Outline at least one strategy a psychologist might suggest to the experts to reduce bias in the collection and processing of forensic evidence. **(10)**

2.

(a) **Outline** the key research by Memon and Higham (1999) and **explain what** it tells us about training police interviewers. **(10)**

(b) **Discuss** ethical considerations in relation to collection of evidence. **(15)**

(c) Tom was in his local supermarket doing some shopping when he witnessed another customer stealing some goods from the shelves.

Outline at least one suggestion a psychologist might make to the police regarding how to interview Tom about what he saw. **(10)**



1.

(a) **Outline** the key research by Ulrich (1984) and **use it to show the extent** to which the view through a window may influence recovery from surgery. **(10)**

(b) **Discuss** the usefulness of research into the psychological effects of the built environment. **(15)**

(c) Sam has the job of converting an office block into apartments for people to live in. The office block is in the town centre and is twelve storeys high. Sam wants to design apartments that will improve the health/wellbeing of the people choosing to live there.

Outline at least one strategy a psychologist might suggest for how Sam can design apartments that will improve the health/wellbeing of the people choosing to live there. **(10)**

2.

(a) **Outline** the key research by Wells (2000) and **explain what** it tells us about territory in the workplace. **(10)**

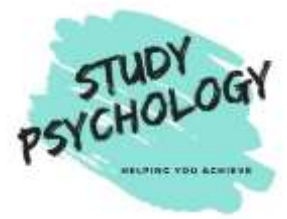
(b) **Discuss** whether research into territory and personal space is ethnocentric. **(15)**

(c) Sundip is creating an office where people can hire workspaces. She wants the office to appeal to as wide a range of potential clients as possible.

Outline at least one suggestion, based on research into territory or personal space, that a psychologist might make to Sundip about how to design her office. **(10)**



Sport & Exercise Psychology Q's



1.

(a) **Outline** the key research by Lewis et al (2014) and **use it to show the extent** to which dance can improve mental health. **(10)**

(b) **Discuss** the validity of research into exercise and mental health. **(15)**

(c) Amit is a primary school teacher with a class of children in Year 6 (aged 10–11 years). The children will soon be taking tests, and Amit wants to get them doing something that will improve their mental health. The school is near open countryside.

Outline at least one strategy a psychologist might suggest to Amit for how exercise could be used to improve the mental health of the school pupils. **(10)**

2.

(a) **Outline** the key research by Kroll and Crenshaw (1970) and **explain what** it tells us about measurement of personality in sport. **(10)**

(b) **Discuss** sampling bias in research into personality and sport. **(15)**

(c) Kareem works as a sports psychologist. It is over halfway through the football season and a team has lost most of its matches. The manager of this team wants advice from Kareem about how knowledge of personality might be used to improve the performance of this team in the last part of the season.

Outline at least one suggestion that Kareem could make to this football manager about how knowledge of personality could be used to improve the team's performance. **(10)**



Exam Skills



CAMBRIDGE OCR PSYCHOLOGY

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

