

Study Psychology

HELPING YOU ACHIEVE



A-Level Psychology Practice Paper

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

Paper 2: Psychology in Context

2 hours



Section A
Approaches in psychology

1. What is the correct arrangement of Maslow's hierarchy of needs from bottom to top of the hierarchy? **(1)**

Select **one** option only.

A: Physiological, Safety, Love/belongingness, Esteem, Self-actualisation.

☐

B: Physiological, Safety, Love/belongingness, Self-actualisation, Esteem.

☐

C: Safety, Physiological, Love/belongingness, Esteem, Self-actualisation.

☐

D: Safety, Physiological, Love/belongingness, Self-actualisation, Esteem.

☐

2. Identify the correct definition of negative reinforcement. **(1)**

Select **one** option only.

A: Receiving a reward such as praise or attention from your parents.

☐

B: Having your mobile phone confiscated for bad behaviour.

☐

C: Having household chores removed while you revise for exams.

☐

D: Taking away your spending money for arguing with your parents.

☐

3. Briefly outline the way in which Pavlov studied classical conditioning. **(2)**

Use your knowledge of genotype and phenotype to explain the girls' behaviour. **(4)**

[illegible]

You may use this space to plan your answer.

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Section B
Biopsychology

6. Identify the divisions of the peripheral nervous system (PNS).

(2)

7. GABA is a primary inhibitory neurotransmitter in the central nervous system, briefly outline the role of inhibitory neurotransmitters such as this.

(2)

8. Outline the role of adrenaline in the fight or flight response.

(4)

9. Read the item and then answer the questions that follow.

Figure 1: Left hemisphere of the brain

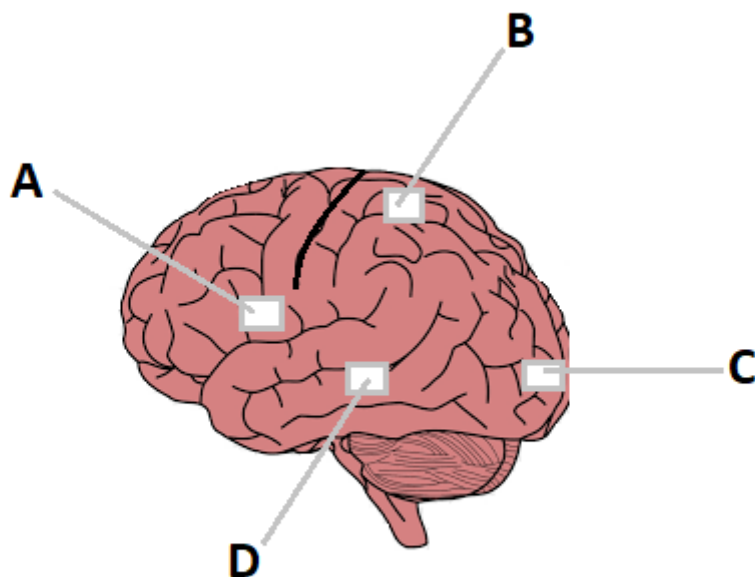


Figure 1 shows the left hemisphere of the brain, identify the correct location of the two language centres below, and write your answers in the box. **(2)**

(i) Broca's Area

(ii) Wernicke's Area

10. The electroencephalogram (EEG) and event-related potentials (ERPs) both involve recording the electrical activity of the brain. Outline one difference between the EEG and ERPs. **(2)**

11. Brain scans such as fMRI are objective measures used to study the structure or function of the brain. Outline **two** strengths of studying the brain this way. **(4)**

12. Outline and evaluate split brain research. **(8)**

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Section C
Research methods

A psychologist was interested in studying aggressive behaviour in chimpanzees in the zoo. Previous research has indicated that social hierarchies are created among chimpanzees led by the alpha males in the group. These hierarchies are seen by displays of aggression and dominance in the group.

Behavioural categories to investigate social dominance in males were created. Two alpha male chimpanzees were selected as the subjects and were observed over 3 days in both morning and afternoons sessions. Their behaviour was compared against two older females in the group.

Two of the main findings are outlined below:

Table 1: Shows the total number of behavioural displays seen in the observation across the 3 days for Aggression and Dominance

	Male Chimpanzees	Female Chimpanzees
Aggressive behaviour over other males in the group	16	3
Dominance over females in the group	12	0

13. Describe **one** way in which the behavioural category of 'aggressive' behaviour could be operationalised in this study.

(3)

14. Using the results in **table 1** calculate the percentage (%) scores for male and female chimpanzees and 'aggressive behaviour over other males in the group'. **(2)**

15. Explain what the percentage (%) scores for male and female chimpanzees tell us about 'aggressive behaviour over other males in the group'. **(2)**

16. Give **one** strength of conducting a naturalistic observation in this study. **(2)**

17. The psychologist used event sampling in this observation, explain what is meant by this. (2)

18. Suggest **one** way in which the psychologist could improve the reliability of this observation. (2)

19. The psychologist decided to analyse the data using a Chi-Squared test. Explain why this is a suitable choice of test for this investigation. (3)

20. Use the formula below to calculate the degrees of freedom for this test. (1)

$$df = (r - 1)(c - 1)$$

Critical values for chi-squared distribution						
Level of significance for a one-tailed test						
df	0.10	0.05	0.025	0.01	0.005	0.0005
1	1.64	2.71	3.84	5.02	6.64	10.83
2	3.22	4.61	5.99	7.38	9.21	13.82
3	4.64	6.25	7.82	9.35	11.35	16.27
4	5.99	7.78	9.49	11.14	13.28	18.47
5	7.29	9.24	11.07	12.83	15.09	20.52
6	8.56	10.65	12.59	14.45	16.81	22.46
7	9.80	12.02	14.07	16.01	18.48	24.32
8	11.03	13.36	15.51	17.54	20.09	26.12
9	12.24	14.68	16.92	19.02	21.67	27.88
10	13.44	15.99	18.31	20.48	23.21	29.59

The calculated value must be equal to or exceed the critical value in this table for significance to be shown.

21. The calculated value from the Chi-Squared test was 2.093.

Use the critical value table to determine the significance of this result.

Write a significance statement to explain this result. (3)

22. Outline **one** conclusion that could be made about social dominance in chimpanzees based on the results of this investigation. (2)

Researchers were interested in how colour affects mood. They asked a group of students to rate how they felt after looking at a series of pictures.

Each picture depicted a scene in nature based on colour;

- * Blue: Boat on the ocean
- * Green: Frog sat on a tree in the Amazon forest
- * Yellow: Field of sunflowers
- * Red: Sunset on a beach
- * Grey: Mist and rain over a woodland

Each student was shown the pictures in the same order.

A rating scale for mood was used on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1= sad/ upset, 3 = neutral, 5 = happy/ content.

23. Outline how the researchers could use volunteer sampling to gather a sample of 20 student participants in this study. **(3)**

[illegible]

[illegible]

In your answer you will gain credit for providing appropriate details of the following:

- [illegible]

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26. Before the research can be published it needs to be peer reviewed. Describe the process and purposes of peer review. **(3)**

27. This study was written up as a scientific report. Describe features of the abstract section in a scientific report. **(3)**

[illegible]

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