

AQA Paper 3 Exam Analysis



ISSUES & DEBATES

2026

Definition of free will (2)

Evaluation of free will – scenario (2)

Levels of explanation – scenario (4)

Social sensitivity in research – refer to topics (16)

2025

Types of determinism – scenario (4)

Distribution using measures of central tendency – scenario (2)

Normal distribution – scenario (2)

Correlation - scenario (4)

Cultural relativism (4)

Idiographic approach (8)

2024

Interactionism (1)

Environmental reductionism (1)

Ethnocentrism (1)

Limitations of ethnocentrism (4)

Determinism – scenario (16)

2023

Androcentrism (2)

Gender bias (2)

Determinism – scenario (4)

Levels of explanation - scenario (16)

2022

Definition soft determinism (2)

Wilcoxon reasons – scenario (4)

Causal explanations – scenario (4)

Nomothetic example (4)

Idiographic example (2)

Socially sensitive research (8)

2021

Definition of interactionism (1)

Behavioural categories – scenario (4)

Validity in the behavioural categories (4)

Significance statement from data in the table – scenario (4)

Idiographic approach – scenario (3)

Gender bias (8)

2020

Definition of cultural relativism (2)

Reducing cultural bias (2)

Psychic determinism – scenario (4)

Reductionism – scenario (16)

2019

Definition of socially sensitive research (2)

Paradigm shift in a scenario (free will and determinism) (4)

Definition of ethnocentrism (2)

Nature-nurture debate (16)

2018

Definitions of cultural relativism, ethnocentrism, holism and universality (4)

Nomothetic approach – scenario (2)

Biological reductionism – scenario (2)

Non-biological ways of measuring excitement (4)

Evaluation reductionist approach (4)

Ethical implications of research in psychology (8)

2017

Reductionist approach (1)

Idiographic approach (1)

Beta bias (2)

How you might address the problem of beta bias (2)

One problem with the method – scenario (3)

Discuss two or more types of determinism (16)

Specimen Practise Papers

Strongly deterministic view (1)

Two types of determinism (2)

One problem associated with alpha bias and one with beta bias (4)

Outline what psychologists mean by 'levels of explanation' (2)

Nomothetic approach – scenario (6)

Define nature-nurture debate (2)

Explain the outcome of a study in relation to the nature-nurture debate (2)

Outline how researchers could have used a statistical test to establish concurrent validity of a mathematical reasoning ability test (4)

Nomothetic approach (1)

Three types of determinism (6)

Identify one influence of nature on our behaviour and one influence of nurture (2)

Socially sensitive research – scenario (4)

Level of measurement (1)

One limitation of the level of measurement (2)

Outline and evaluate reductionist explanations in Psychology (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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