

Exam Questions

Practise your exam skills using
past exam questions

EDEXCEL Psychology





TAKE 5

EDEXCEL 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:

Clinical

Criminological

Child

Health

Exam Skills



EDEXCEL 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

Break something down into its components/parts. Examine each part methodically and in detail in order to discover the meaning or essential features of a theme, topic or situation. Explore the relationship between the features and how each one contributes to the topic.

Assess

Give careful consideration to all the factors or events that apply and identify which are the most important or relevant. Make a judgement on the importance of something, and come to a conclusion where needed.

Calculate

Obtain a numerical answer, showing relevant working. If the answer has a unit, this must be included.

Compare

Looking for the similarities and differences of two (or more) things. This should not require the drawing of a conclusion. The answer must relate to both (or all) things mentioned in the question. The answer must include at least one similarity and one difference.

Complete

To fill in/write all the details asked for.

Convert

Express a quantity in alternative units.

Define

Provide a definition of something.

Describe

To give an account of something. Statements in the response need to be developed as they are often linked but do not need to include a justification or reason.

Determine

The answer must have an element that is quantitative from the stimulus provided, or must show how the answer can be reached quantitatively. To gain maximum marks there must be a quantitative element to the answer.

Discuss

Explore the issue/situation/problem/argument that is being presented within the question, articulating different or contrasting viewpoints.

Draw

Produce an output, either by freehand or using a ruler (e.g. graph).

Evaluate

Review information then bring it together to form a conclusion, drawing on evidence including strengths, weaknesses, alternative actions, relevant data or information. Come to a supported judgement of a subject's qualities and relation to its context.

Explain

An explanation that requires a justification/exemplification of a point. The answer must contain some element of reasoning/justification. This can include mathematical explanations.

Give

Generally involves the recall of one or more pieces of information; when used in relation to a context, it is used to determine a candidate's grasp of the factual information presented.

Identify

This requires some key information to be selected from a given stimulus/resource.

Interpret

Recognise a trend or pattern(s) within a given stimulus/resource.

Justify

Rationalise a decision or action.

Name

Synonymous with 'Give'.

Plot

Produce, or add detail to, a graph/chart by marking points accurately (e.g. line of best fit).

Predict

Articulate an expected result.

State

Synonymous with 'Give'.



Suggest

Make a proposal/propose an idea in written form.

To what extent

Review information then bring it together to form a judgement conclusion, following the provision of a balanced and reasoned argument.

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



EDEXCEL 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 2

EDEXCEL Psychology



Clinical Psychology Questions

1.

During your studies of clinical psychology, you will have learned about classification systems for mental health, including the DSM and ICD.

- (a) Describe the DSM as a classification system. (2)
- (b) Explain **one** strength and **one** weakness of the DSM as a classification system to diagnose mental health disorders. (4)

2.

You will have learned about the function of neurotransmitters as an explanation of schizophrenia.

- (a) Describe the function of neurotransmitters as an explanation of schizophrenia. (3)
- (b) Explain **one** strength of the function of neurotransmitters as an explanation of schizophrenia. (2)

3.

You will have learned about the classic study by Rosenhan (1973).

- (a) Describe the results of Rosenhan (1973). (4)
- (b) Explain **one** strength of Rosenhan (1973). (2)
- (c) Explain **one** improvement that could be made to Rosenhan (1973). (2)

4.

In your studies of clinical psychology, you will have learned about one biological theory/explanation for schizophrenia other than the function of neurotransmitters.

Evaluate **one** biological theory/explanation for schizophrenia **other than the function of neurotransmitters.**

(8)

5.

Henry has been referred to a psychiatrist and has been diagnosed with schizophrenia. Whilst talking to the psychiatrist he disclosed he has a variety of symptoms including hearing voices telling him he is not a good person. He also has delusions where he thinks he is a superhero and can save the world. Henry has also withdrawn from his family and friends and no longer goes out to see his local rugby team play. He does not get on with his parents as he feels they were not loving parents when he was a child.

Henry's psychiatrist wants to treat him with a psychological treatment.

To what extent could **one** psychological treatment be effective for Henry's schizophrenia?

You must make reference to the context in your answer.

(20)



Criminological Psychology Questions

1.

In your studies of criminological psychology you will have learned about the classic study by Loftus and Palmer (1974).

- (a) Describe the results from Loftus and Palmer (1974). (2)
- (b) Explain **one** strength and **one** weakness of the study by Loftus and Palmer (1974). (4)

2.

Jekaterina has recently had an accident which resulted in damage to her amygdala. Since the accident she has lost her temper a lot more. She has had frequent arguments with her parents.

Jekaterina's old friends do not like to go out with her any more, as she often starts fighting with strangers. She is now going out with some new friends. Jekaterina has just been arrested by the police for hitting someone whilst she was out with her new friends. Jekaterina thinks her aggression is due to the damage to her amygdala.

Discuss how damage to Jekaterina's amygdala may account for her aggression.

You must make reference to the context in your answer.

(8)

3.

Evaluate the self-fulfilling prophecy as an explanation of criminal/anti-social behaviour.

(8)

4.

Assess **one** theory of personality as an explanation of crime and anti-social behaviour.

(8)

5.

Maxyme is currently in prison.

He gets very angry when people disrespect him, such as when a teenager pushed in front of him in a queue before he went to prison. He felt the teenager had done it deliberately because they did not like Maxyme. The only reason Maxyme did not start a fight is because there were several other people nearby and he did not want to get into trouble with the police.

Maxyme has been found guilty of robbery and assault. He went with a weapon to a shop and threatened the shop keeper. Once the shop keeper had given him some money, he left the shop. Maxyme assaulted a passer-by when they tried to stop him from getting away.

Whilst in prison, Maxyme is having a cognitive-behavioural treatment.

Assess the effectiveness of **one** cognitive-behavioural treatment for Maxyme.

You must make reference to the context in your answer.

(16)



Child Psychology Questions

1.

In your studies of child psychology you will have learned about the classic study by van IJzendoorn and Kroonenberg (1988).

(a) Describe the results from van IJzendoorn and Kroonenberg (1988).

(2)

(b) Explain **one** strength and **one** weakness of the study by van IJzendoorn and Kroonenberg (1988).

(4)

2.

In your studies of child psychology you will have learned about therapies for helping children with autism.

(a) Describe **one** therapy used to help children with autism.

(2)

(b) Explain **one** strength of a therapy for helping children with autism.

(2)

3.

Evaluate **one** biological explanation for autism.

(8)

4.

George is a psychologist who works at a children's clinic. He has been asked to work with a child who they are worried may develop the effects of deprivation. This is the second occasion that the child's mother has had to stay in hospital for a long period of time. The child will be placed in foster care with a family.

During the first separation the child was placed in a children's home and had to fit in with the routines that were already in place there. The parents of the child are concerned as they noticed a change in their child's behaviour after the first separation.

Discuss how George may reduce the negative effects of deprivation.

You must make reference to the context in your answer.

(8)

5.

Maxyme works as a nurse at a local health centre. As part of his job, he runs a class for new parents to teach parenting skills. He has a mixture of mothers and fathers attending the class.

Maxyme has noticed that the children react differently to their parents. One child called Jack is always happy to explore the toys in the room and interact with his parent, whereas another child called Fay does not interact with her parent. Some other children in the parenting class do not explore the room but like to stay close to their parent.

Maxyme has decided to investigate this further as part of his professional development. He decides to use the Strange Situation procedure to investigate how all the children in the parenting class react to their mothers and fathers, and how the parents react to their child.

Assess the effectiveness of the Strange Situation procedure as used by Maxyme to investigate the children and their parents.

You must make reference to the context in your answer.

(16)



Health Psychology Questions

1.

In your studies of health psychology you will have learned about the classic study by Olds and Milner (1954).

(a) Describe the results from Olds and Milner (1954). (2)

(b) Explain **one** strength and **one** weakness of the study by Olds and Milner (1954). (4)

2.

Evaluate **one** treatment for nicotine addiction, **other than** aversion therapy. (8)

3.

Assess the effectiveness of **one** biological explanation to account for heroin addiction. (8)

4.

Humphrey is addicted to alcohol. He drinks a can of beer as soon as he wakes up and then continues drinking throughout the day, often progressing to stronger alcohol such as bottles of vodka. His friends no longer go out with him or visit him at home due to his alcohol addiction.

Humphrey has lost his job due to being unable to carry out his work effectively because he was drunk. He was recently admitted to hospital as he was found unconscious after drinking. Whilst in hospital, Humphrey suffered withdrawal symptoms because he could not get any alcohol.

Humphrey has decided he wants to address his alcohol addiction and has admitted himself into a clinic which uses aversion therapy.

Evaluate aversion therapy as it could be used with Humphrey.

You must make reference to the context in your answer.

5.

Maxyme is addicted to alcohol. He always has a drink of alcohol after he has eaten, and every time he goes out, he needs to drink. He finds drinking makes him feel relaxed and more confident and says he started drinking when he was nervous about being in large groups.

Maxyme's friends used to say he was much more fun when he had a drink, but now that he drinks excessively they are embarrassed by his behaviour. Maxyme gets withdrawal symptoms if he does not have a drink of alcohol in the morning.

His mother used to drink a lot of alcohol, and when Maxyme was younger his group of friends often drank alcohol when they were at the park. When questioned about his alcohol addiction, Maxyme said it is due to seeing his mother drinking when he was a child.

Assess the effectiveness of **one** learning explanation to account for Maxyme's alcohol addiction.

You must make reference to the context in your answer.

(16)



Exam Skills



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

