

## **AQA Paper 3 Exam Analysis**



## **FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY**

### **2026**

Behavioural category with face validity – scenario (1)

Reliability of observations in content analysis (3)

Limitations of the top-down approach to offender profiling (4)

Differential association theory (16)

### **2025**

Atavistic form in offending (1)

Eysenck's criminal personality type (1)

Aim of custodial sentencing (2)

Evaluate custodial sentencing as a way of dealing with offending behaviour (4)

Level of moral reasoning as an explanation for offending – scenario (16)

### **2024**

Harvard referencing (1)

Questionnaire modification – scenario (2)

Eysenck's theory (3)

Ways of dealing with offending – scenario (16)

## **2023**

Reasons for choosing a chi squared test - scenario (4)

Top-down approach – scenario (4)

Control over participant variable - scenario (4)

Describe cognitive distortions in offending behaviour (6)

Evaluate cognitive distortions in offending behaviour (6)

## **2022**

Bottom-up approach to offender profiling (4)

Evaluate the bottom-up approach to offender profiling (4)

Psychodynamic explanations of offending (16)

## **2021**

Testable hypothesis (1)

Dealing with offending – scenario (1)

Recommendations for dealing with offending – scenario (4)

Limitation of way of dealing with offending – scenario (2)

Biological explanations for offending (16)

## **2020**

Psychodynamic explanation(s) for offending behaviour (6)

Anger management – scenario (4)

One strength and one limitation of anger management (6)

## **2019**

How two sets of images could be used in this study and why this would be an improvement (4)

Participants who had a score < the median in the before condition – stats scenario (4)

Differential association theory in the context of offending (8)

Official statistics and/or victim surveys as ways of measuring crime (8)

## **2018**

Eysenck's theory of the criminal personality (2)

Evaluate the atavistic form explanation for offending – scenario (6)

Ways of dealing with offending behaviour – scenario (16)

## **2017**

Briefly explain the top-down approach to offender profiling (2)

Difference between primary and secondary data (4)

Thematic analysis of the interview recordings (2)

Describe and evaluate cognitive explanations for offending (16)

## **Specimen Practise Papers**

Explain two problems in defining crime (4)

Outline one cognitive distortion shown by offenders who attempt to justify their crime (2)

One limitation of offender profiling (2)

Discuss the psychological effects of custodial sentencing (16)

Outline differential association theory as an explanation for offending (2)

Explain one limitation of this theory (2)

Why use the median as a measure of central tendency rather than the mean (4)

Discuss biological explanations of offending behaviour (16)



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



# STUDY PSYCHOLOGY

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