

# *Study Psychology*

HELPING YOU ACHIEVE



## **A-Level Psychology Practice Paper**

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

### **Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology**

2 hours



Section A  
Social influence

1. Which of the following terms best describes the statements below?

Choose one term that matches each statement and write A, B, C, D or E in the box next to it.

Use each letter once only.

(4)

- A Identification
- B Informational Social Influence
- C Normative Social Influence
- D Compliance
- E Internalisation

i) Group pressure leading to a desire to fit in with the group.

ii) Publicly changing behaviour whilst maintaining a different private view.

iii) When a person lacks knowledge of how to behave and looks to the group for guidance.

iv) Changing your opinion when in the presence of the group, but not privately.

2. (a) Briefly outline **one** finding from Zimbardo's study (1973) on conforming to social roles.

(2)

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(b) Outline **one** weakness of Zimbardo's study (1973) on conforming to social roles.

(2)

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3. Research investigating obedience is often conducted in artificial settings such as Milgram (1963), outline **one** strength and **one** weakness of conducting research in this way. (4)

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4. Mary helped organise a group march to protest against cosmetic companies testing on animals. At the protest she becomes agitated with an opposing woman who is shouting insults at her group. In haste she pushes the woman to the floor and is quickly arrested by police officers standing close by.

Using your knowledge of minority influence, explain why Mary did not resist when she was arrested and her supporters continued to march on. (2)

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5. Describe how Asch studied task difficulty **or** group size in his variation of the line comparison test.

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6. As senior prefects at school Meredith and Amy have set up a new recycling scheme for plastic bottles. They have the full support of the headteacher who has pledged to give every student a £10 book voucher at the end of the term if they meet the schools target for recycling. All of their friends are encouraged to take part and Meredith leads by example.

Using your knowledge of social influence processes in social change, explain the possible reasons why the school’s recycling target will be met.

(6)

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**Section B**

**Memory**

7. Using your knowledge of capacity and duration in memory, complete table 1 below. (2)

|          | STM           | LTM       |
|----------|---------------|-----------|
| Capacity |               | Unlimited |
| Duration | 18-30 seconds |           |

Table 1

8. Briefly outline two components of the cognitive interview as a technique to improve the accuracy of eyewitness testimony. (2)

9. Harry and Luke conducted an experiment into gender differences and eyewitness testimony. Twenty participants were randomly selected; 10 male and 10 female and shown a film of a staged robbery. Following this they were each asked to describe the weapon used by the offender. There was no weapon in the film.

(a) Explain why the majority of the participants reported seeing a weapon in the film. (2)

(b) Harry and Luke decided to use a Mann Whitney U test to analyse their results, state two reasons why this is an appropriate statistical test. (2)

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10. Outline and evaluate the working memory model. (16)

You may use this space to plan your answer.

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**Section C**  
**Attachment**

11. Outline the concept of an internal working model in the context of attachment. (2)

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12. State two effects of institutionalisation. (2)

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13. Name all four stages in the development of attachments identified by Schaffer. (4)

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14. Mary Ainsworth conducted an investigation into attachment types using the Strange Situation method, outline and evaluate this method. (16)

You may use this space to plan your answer.

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Section D  
Psychopathology

15. Outline deviation from social norms as a definition of abnormality. (2)

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16. Name **two** behavioural characteristics of depression. (2)

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17. Self-reports are often used to collect data from patients regarding their mental health, explain **one** strength and **one** weakness of using this method. (4)

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18. Finlay is in his twenties and has had a phobia of balloons since one burst near his face when he was a little boy. Loud noises such as 'banging' and 'popping' cause Finlay extreme anxiety, and he now avoids situations such as birthday parties and weddings, where there might be balloons.

[illegible]

(b) Explain how a psychologist could use flooding as a treatment for Finlay’s phobia. (4)

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19. Discuss the use of cognitive behaviour therapy as a treatment for depression. (8)

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**END OF PAPER**

# *Study Psychology* <sup>(c)</sup>

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