

Candidate Name

Candidate Number

Centre Name

Centre Number

Paper 1: Approaches and questions in psychology

Sample Paper

(1 hour 30 minutes)

It is necessary to respond on the answer sheet provided alongside this question paper.
Additionally, you must have a dark blue or black pen.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- You must write your name, candidate number, centre name and centre number on the answer sheet in the designated space.
- This paper consists of three sections, answer all the questions in each section.
- It is important to follow the instructions provided on the answer sheet.
- Do not use correction fluid.
- Avoid writing on any bar codes.

INFORMATION:

- The total mark for this paper is 60.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets []

Section A

Answer ALL questions.

1. Here are some student notes concerning some research they have been reading about

Kendler, Mclean Neale et al (1992) Personal structured psychiatric interviews conducted with 2,163 female twins. Psychiatric disorders assessed using DSM-III-R criteria. Concordances for narrowly defined bulimia were (MZ) 22.9% and (DZ) 8.7%. The best-fitting model indicated a heritability of liability of 55%

- (a) Which of the five basic approaches to psychology is this research most typical of? [1 mark]
- (b) What conclusion about bulimia is being invited by this research? [2 marks]
- (c) Using so far as possible your own words, explain what the evidence for this conclusion would be. [3 marks]
2. (a) What are the four major features of psychology that make it a science? [4 marks]
- (b) Apart from their regard for the scientific method, identify one common feature and one difference between psychology and sociology. [2 marks]

3. A student talks about something they have read about learning.

“So, I read about this one learning study where a monkey had been conditioned to pull a lever. If it pulled the correct lever, it got a nut reward (a VR 10 schedule was being used). The monkey at first ate the nuts. Then it started storing the nuts in its cheeks. However, when its cheeks were full, it started throwing the nuts out of the cage. They were more of a nuisance, it seemed. But the monkey kept pulling the lever. Why? Was some kind of mental process going on?”

- (a) What type of training is being described by the student? [1 mark]
- (b) What would be the correct technical description of the nut reward in this training? [1 mark]
- (c) Explain what is meant by a “VR 10 schedule”. [3 marks]
- (d) What two psychological approaches are indicated by the student? [2 marks]

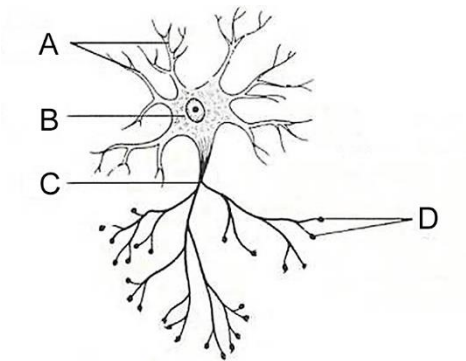
Tolman (1930) put some rats into a maze and let them explore it. There was no food in the maze. Later, these rats were returned to the maze and their performance compared with rats who had never seen the maze before. There was no noticeable difference between the two groups. However, when food was put in a goal box at the centre, rats who had been in the maze before learned to reach the

- (e) With which of the psychological approaches identified in (d) would you associate this research? Explain your answer. [2 marks]
- (f) Describe three weaknesses of the approach identified in (e) [3 marks]
4. “Millon & Davis (1996) suggest research should start with a nomothetic approach and ... can then move to a more idiographic approach. Thus, getting the best of both worlds!” Dr. Saul McLeod, *Nomothetic Idiographic Debate* (2019). Using research examples, explain each approach and say what deficiencies in each a complimentary approach might rectify. [6 marks]
5. Look at the diagram of a neuron (right)
- (a) Identify A, B, C and D. [1 mark]

(b) What are the three main types of neuron found in the human body? [1 mark]

(c) Briefly describe the process of synaptic transmission. [2 marks]

(d) What is the difference between serotonin and adrenaline as neurotransmitters? [2 marks]


6. (a) Using an example, explain what is meant by the fight or flight response. [3 marks]
- (b) Give an example of research suggesting a relationship between hormonal levels and behaviour. [3 marks]

Section B

Answer TWO questions only!

7. Asch's study of conformity (1955) is still described as a paradigm study. How have subsequent researchers attempted to address perceived weaknesses in the original work, and what light has this shed on the original findings? [12 marks]
8. Choosing either the psychodynamic approach or the humanist approach, evaluate the extent to which the approach shares the reductionism and determinism of other approaches. [12 marks]
9. To what extent does Social Learning Theory (as represented by e.g. Bandura et al (1961) represent a combination of behaviourist and cognitive approaches to psychology? [12 marks]
10. How has the nature/nurture debate been investigated and what, in your opinion, has the research told us about the nature/nurture debate in psychology? [12 marks]