



PSYCHOLOGY
HIGHER LEVEL
PAPER 2

Monday 6 November 2000 (morning)

3 hours

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Section A: Read the research report carefully and then answer all the questions.
- Section B: Answer two questions, each chosen from a different Optional Subject Area.

SECTION A

Read the following research report carefully, and then answer **all** the questions.

The allocation of marks for each question is indicated in the margin.

The number of people using the Internet is increasing rapidly at present. Some psychologists claim that excessive use of the Internet might lead to a decrease in sociability and an increase in health related effects such as tiredness. In order to investigate these claims, a team of researchers identified two groups of people.

5 The first group were contacted at home using information from computer stores who had recently sold them computers and Internet hardware and software. They were asked if they intended to use the Internet regularly in the coming six months and, if so, were allocated to the experimental or 'treatment' group. The second

10 group, who were selected at the store by the researchers if they had not bought any equipment, said that they did not own a computer and definitely would not use the Internet over the coming six months. The participants were tested for sociability using a questionnaire both at the beginning and the end of the six month test period. They were also interviewed about their general state of health including how generally tired they felt from day to day. Research assistants, unaware of the

15 research hypothesis, rated the interview content for 'degree of tiredness' expressed.

At the beginning of the six month period, the two groups did not differ on sociability or tiredness but at the end of the period the difference between the two groups means for sociability was significant ($p < 0.05$) as was the difference for tiredness ($p < 0.01$). For the Internet using group there was also a weak but

20 significant negative correlation between amount of Internet use and the level of sociability. The researchers cautiously assumed that Internet use was the cause of the changes in sociability and tiredness.

1. State **two** essential features of an experiment that this research study lacks. [2 marks]
2. State an appropriate research hypothesis for the differences in tiredness. [2 marks]
3. State a precise null hypothesis for the correlation between Internet use and sociability. [2 marks]
4. Some features of the control group were similar to those in the experimental group.
 - (a) Explain why it is important that the control group should be similar to the experimental group. [2 marks]
 - (b) State **two** ways in which the two groups are similar. [2 marks]
 - (c) Give **two** important differences between the two groups which might possibly confound the research findings. Give a reason for the possible confounding in each case. [4 marks]
5. (a) What is meant by the phrase ‘the difference between the two groups means for sociability was significant ($p < 0.05$)’? (*lines 17 - 18*) [2 marks]
(b) Of the two significant differences mentioned in the report (*lines 18 - 19*), which shows the higher level of significance? Give a reason for your answer. [2 marks]
6. Explain why the researchers who assessed the interview content were kept ‘unaware of the research hypothesis’. (*lines 14 - 15*) [2 marks]
7. The tiredness levels were assessed through the use of interviews.
 - (a) State **one** advantage of using interviews compared with the use of questionnaires. Give a reason for this advantage. [2 marks]
 - (b) State **one** disadvantage of using interviews compared with the use of questionnaires. Give a reason for this disadvantage. [2 marks]

8. The raw data in **Table I** below are the scores on sociability for the control group. Arrange these into a stem and leaf diagram (note: no special paper is needed for this procedure). [5 marks]

Table I: Raw data – control group sociability scores

10	20	31
11	20	32
11	21	32
12	21	34
14	21	35
15	25	35
17	28	36
18	29	
19		

9. The participants were contacted by using customer addresses held by the computer store. Imagine you are the researcher making the first face-to-face contact with the customer. Outline **three** ethical issues that you should consider when asking people to participate in this research project. [3 marks]
10. One participant scored extremely low on sociability and demonstrated worrying levels of general health through the interview process. On ethical grounds, how might the researchers respond? [4 marks]
11. There was a negative correlation between Internet use and level of sociability (*line 20*). Explain the term **negative correlation** in the context of this research. [2 marks]
12. Explain why the researchers were cautious in their suggestion that Internet use is a cause of the changes in sociability and tiredness. (*line 21*) [3 marks]
13. The tiredness data are treated as ordinal level data. State an appropriate test of difference between the two groups for the tiredness data. Give a reason for your choice, other than the given level of data measurement. [2 marks]

- 14.** Consider the sample of Internet users selected for this study. Give **two** reasons why the ways in which they were selected did not produce a random sample of the general population. *[2 marks]*
- 15.** There are weaknesses in the design of this research that make it problematic to assume that Internet use was a direct cause of increased tiredness and decreased sociability. Describe changes to this design **or** a new design, which could eliminate some of these weaknesses. *[5 marks]*

SECTION B

Answer **two** questions each chosen from a different Optional Subject Area. Marks will be awarded for clear presentation of **theories**, inclusion of appropriate **empirical studies** and **evaluative arguments**.

Biological bases of behaviour

16. Examine the motivational and/or emotional factors that may influence the regulation of food intake in humans. [25 marks]
17. Explain how degenerative disease may damage the brain and how the degeneration may be arrested or slowed down. [25 marks]
18. (a) Describe what is meant by cortical activity in the brain. [13 marks]
- (b) Explain methods of how psychologists have investigated localisation of functions within the human brain. [12 marks]

Comparative psychology

19. (a) Describe **two** examples of apparent altruism in social insects. [13 marks]
- (b) Evaluate explanations for altruistic behaviour in social insects. [12 marks]
20. Describe and evaluate the use of non-human animals in research studies concerned with visual perceptual processes. [25 marks]
21. Explain the role of the dominant male and/or the dominant female in courtship and mating behaviour in non-human animals. [25 marks]

Delinquency and crime

22. To what extent do cultural values explain the differences in reported crime rates between different racial groups? *[25 marks]*
23. (a) Describe **two** theories of social identity development. *[10 marks]*
- (b) Discuss the ways in which criminal behaviour may be influenced by social identity. *[15 marks]*
24. Critically consider whether criminal behaviour is a manifestation of blocked access to socially legitimate goals. *[25 marks]*

Dysfunctional behaviour

25. Compare genetic and environmental aetiologies for **one** dysfunctional disorder. *[25 marks]*
26. (a) Define **dysfunctional behaviour**, with examples. *[5 marks]*
- (b) With reference to cross-cultural issues, account for the preference of many psychologists for the use of the term ‘dysfunctional’ rather than ‘abnormal’ when referring to certain types of human behaviour. *[20 marks]*
27. (a) Outline the underpinning assumptions about dysfunctional behaviour from both the humanistic and the biomedical models. *[13 marks]*
- (b) Evaluate the effectiveness of the therapies based on **one** of the two approaches. *[12 marks]*

The psychology of gender

28. (a) Describe the controversial findings of research relating to the psychology of gender. *[13 marks]*
- (b) Evaluate the possible methodological weaknesses of the research which may have contributed to these controversies. *[12 marks]*
29. (a) Describe cross-gender differences in mental health throughout the life span. *[13 marks]*
- (b) Explain the possible reasons for these differences. *[12 marks]*
30. In many cultures, men receive more formal education than women. Account for the possible reasons for these gender differences with reference to appropriate theories. *[25 marks]*

Intelligence and personality

31. Analyse controversies in defining personality. *[25 marks]*
32. Describe and evaluate research findings that identify relevant environmental factors in the development of intelligence. *[25 marks]*
33. (a) Discuss the use of intelligence and personality tests. *[13 marks]*
- (b) Examine the controversies surrounding their use. *[12 marks]*

Life span psychology

34. Critically consider the relative contribution of genetic factors and pre-natal learning on post-natal development. *[25 marks]*
35. Compare **two** theories of adult development. *[25 marks]*
36. (a) Describe **two** long term studies within life span psychology. *[13 marks]*
- (b) Evaluate each of the studies you have described referring to their advantages and disadvantages. *[12 marks]*

The migrant, sojourner and tourist experience

37. (a) Why are values difficult to investigate cross-culturally? *[10 marks]*
- (b) Which values, according to psychological research, are most beneficial to cultural mediation? *[15 marks]*
38. “For refugees the migration experience is particularly stressful.” What psychological evidence exists to support this statement? *[25 marks]*
39. Select **one** psychological interpretation of the migration experience and analyse its theoretical advantages and disadvantages. *[25 marks]*

Organisational psychology

40. Using empirical research, consider to what extent the style of leadership influences productivity and satisfaction within an organisation. *[25 marks]*
41. (a) Describe sources of conflict that may exist within organisations. *[13 marks]*
- (b) Evaluate strategies that may be used to overcome conflicts. *[12 marks]*
42. Consider some of the effects of stress at work and evaluate strategies which can be used to cope with such stress. *[25 marks]*

Social psychology

43. Which psychological processes and conditions are responsible for altruistic behaviour? *[25 marks]*
44. (a) What is attribution theory? *[15 marks]*
(b) How can the findings from attribution theory assist us in understanding everyday behaviour? *[10 marks]*
45. Why is conformity difficult to resist? Account for the dynamics of conformity. *[25 marks]*
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