

**PSYCHOLOGY
HIGHER LEVEL
PAPER 2**

Tuesday 12 November 2002 (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.

5 A team of psychologists was interested in the relationship between the use of computers and negative psychological consequences in adult males, such as reduced social activity and increased depressive feelings. The researchers asked a local computer shop for the names and phone numbers of customers who had recently bought a computer. These people were then contacted by telephone and asked if they were willing to participate in a psychological research study. From those who agreed, the researchers randomly chose 50 people to participate in the study.

10 Participants were asked to complete two psychological scales, one which measured their amount of social activity and another designed to measure their depressive feelings. Both of these scales had previously been found to be reliable and valid.

Over the next six months, the participants were required to keep a diary of the amount of time they each spent using their computer. At the end of this six month period, they were asked to complete the social activity scale and depression scale again.

15 The results of these two scales were then correlated with the mean daily amount of time spent using the computers, as reported in the diaries. It was found that there was a strong negative correlation between social activity and computer use and a weak positive correlation between depressive feelings and computer use. Tests of significance were also carried out. Table 1 shows these results, as well as the levels of significance of each correlation.

20 A local newspaper reported that the researchers had found “conclusive proof” that increased computer use caused depression.

Table 1: *Correlations between psychological scales and mean amount of computer use after six months use.*

	Correlation (<i>r</i>)	Significance of <i>r</i>
Social activity and computer use	-0.72	$p < 0.05$
Depressive feelings and computer use	0.24	$p > 0.05$

1. (a) Define validity. *[1 mark]*
(b) Explain what is meant by saying that the depressive feelings scale was valid. *[1 mark]*

2. State **two** possible operationalized alternate hypotheses for this study. *[6 marks]*

3. Explain why it is important for psychology researchers to obtain informed consent from their participants. *[2 marks]*

4. (a) What is meant by stating that a random sample was used? *[1 mark]*
(b) State **two** methods that may be used to obtain a random sample. *[2 marks]*

5. (a) Was a representative sample used in this study? *[1 mark]*
(b) Give **two** reasons for the answer in (a). *[2 marks]*
(c) Why is it important that a representative sample be used in research? *[1 mark]*

6. Describe the strength and direction of the relationship between the following sets of variables:
(a) social activity and computer use; *[2 marks]*
(b) depressive feelings and computer use. *[2 marks]*

7. Roughly sketch a scattergram that represents the results found for the following correlations: (Note: no graph paper is required.)
(a) social activity and computer use; *[3 marks]*
(b) depressive feelings and computer use. *[3 marks]*

8. (a) What level of significance was achieved for the correlation between social activity and computer use? *[1 mark]*
(b) Explain what this level of significance means. *[3 marks]*

9. State **two** relevant ethical issues and give a reason why each might be of particular concern in this research study. *[4 marks]*
10. The local newspaper claimed that there was “conclusive proof” that increased computer use **caused** depression. State and discuss two reasons why this claim is mistaken. *[6 marks]*
11. State **two** methodological flaws, other than sampling, in this research and explain how each could have been avoided. *[4 marks]*
12. Did this study use qualitative or quantitative methods? Explain your answer. *[2 marks]*
13. Representatives of a computer company read the results of this research and were dismayed at the negative light this shed on the use of computers. They decided to carry out a study to investigate the possible positive consequences for computer users. Describe how a qualitative study might investigate one positive consequence for computer users. *[3 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 **evaluation**. When structured questions are set (that is with parts a or b) candidates should clearly label each part of their answer a or b.

Biological bases of behaviour

14. (a) Describe **two** studies of bodily rhythms. [12 marks]
- (b) Discuss ways in which a knowledge of bodily rhythms has been used to help individuals to cope with the adverse effects of interruptions to bodily rhythms (*e.g.* jet lag, shift work). [13 marks]
15. To what extent are physiological mechanisms involved in emotion? [25 marks]
16. Explain how split brain studies have enabled psychologists to understand ways in which each hemisphere contributes to behaviour. [25 marks]

Comparative psychology

17. The ability of animals to learn varies from one species to another.
- (a) Account for such differences. [12 marks]
- (b) Discuss what psychologists have discovered from their study of specific non-human animal species about their ability to learn. [13 marks]
18. Compare courtship behaviours in different non-human animals. [25 marks]
19. Explain how the study of non-human primates has contributed to an understanding of human language acquisition. [25 marks]

Delinquency and crime

20. (a) With reference to empirical evidence, briefly describe family factors that appear to characterize the development of criminal and delinquent behaviour. *[13 marks]*
- (b) To what extent do family factors contribute to the development of criminal and delinquent behaviour? *[12 marks]*
21. Discuss the role of social institutions in the development of criminal and delinquent behaviour. *[25 marks]*
22. Using psychological studies of families, twins and adoption, examine the role of biological factors in explanations of the development of criminal and delinquent behaviour. *[25 marks]*

Dysfunctional behaviour

23. Discuss genetic and deviant family relationship explanations of schizophrenia. *[25 marks]*
24. (a) Identify and describe **one** therapy from the cognitive perspective. *[10 marks]*
- (b) Compare cognitive and psychoanalytic therapies. *[15 marks]*
25. Assess the usefulness of the concepts of “normality” and “abnormality” as applied to dysfunctional behaviours. *[25 marks]*

The psychology of gender

26. Supporting your argument with psychological research, critically consider the relative influence of genetic and physiological determinants of sex differences. *[25 marks]*
27. (a) Describe **one** study of psychological androgyny. *[13 marks]*
- (b) Critically consider the implications of this study **and** other similar studies of gender and role identity. *[12 marks]*
28. According to statistics, men and women show different rates of “mental” health (or “mental” illness). To what extent does psychological research explain these differences? *[25 marks]*

Intelligence and personality

29. “Intelligence is too complex to capture (or define) with a single number.”

Based on the above statement, critically evaluate controversies surrounding the use of intelligence tests.

[25 marks]

30. (a) Describe **one** method of assessment of personality, explaining the theoretical assumptions underpinning the chosen method.

[13 marks]

(b) Evaluate the possible methodological limitations of this method.

[12 marks]

31. Examine controversies surrounding the use of personality tests.

[25 marks]

Lifespan psychology

32. “Attachment behaviour is held to characterize human beings from the cradle to the grave.” Bowlby (1977)

Critically consider Bowlby’s view that patterns of attachment behaviour established in childhood influence adult relationships.

[25 marks]

33. (a) Describe **one** theory of adulthood.

[10 marks]

(b) To what extent are cultural differences acknowledged in theories of adulthood?

[15 marks]

34. Using empirical studies to illustrate your answer, consider methodological and ethical problems involved in the study of adults.

[25 marks]

The migrant, sojourner and tourist experience

35. (a) Discuss various theoretical interpretations of the migration experience. *[15 marks]*
- (b) In your opinion which **one** of these interpretations is the most satisfactory in explaining sources of psychological problems associated with migration, and why? *[10 marks]*
36. To what extent do immigrants, refugees, sojourners, and students studying abroad differ psychologically from each other in their experiences in a new culture? *[25 marks]*
37. (a) How do psychologists define and investigate values across cultures? *[15 marks]*
- (b) In what ways can the migrant serve as a cultural mediator when encountering conflict arising from value differences? *[10 marks]*

Organizational psychology

38. (a) Describe **two** theories of motivation related to work within organizations. *[12 marks]*
- (b) Evaluate the effectiveness of the theories that you have described in part (a). *[13 marks]*
39. Describe **one** psychological study of stress that has been conducted in relation to an organization or workplace, and evaluate the findings of the study. *[25 marks]*
40. “Communications within organizations are affected by the environment, the technology employed and the nature of the task itself.”
- To what extent is this statement true of organizations? *[25 marks]*

Social psychology

41. “It is necessary to deceive people in order to learn about their social behaviour.”
- (a) Critically discuss the above statement with reference to experimental research in social psychology. *[13 marks]*
 - (b) What alternative data collection methods could be implemented to learn how people function in social situations? *[12 marks]*
42. Describe and evaluate **one** social psychological explanation of interpersonal aggression. *[25 marks]*
43. How does attribution theory help us understand people’s behaviour? *[25 marks]*
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