

Centre Number						Candidate Number				
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For Examiner's Use	
Examiner's Initials	
Question	Mark
1	
2	
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10	
TOTAL	



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
January 2009

Psychology (Specification A)

PSYA1

**Unit 1 Cognitive Psychology, Developmental Psychology
and Research Methods**

Thursday 8 January 2009 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

You will need no other materials.

Time allowed

- 1 hour 30 minutes

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Fill in the boxes at the top of this page.
- Answer **all** questions.
- You must answer the questions in the spaces provided. Answers written in margins or on blank pages will not be marked.
- Do all rough work in this book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.
- If you need extra paper, use the Supplementary Answer Sheets.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 72.
- Question 10 should be answered in continuous prose. You may use the space provided to plan your answer. In Question 10, you will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.



J A N 0 9 P S Y A 1 0 1

SECTION A: COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY AND RESEARCH METHODS

Answer **all** questions.

Total for this question: 12 marks

1 The following are all concepts relating to memory:

- A** Duration
- B** Capacity
- C** Encoding
- D** Retrieval.

1 (a) In the table below, write which **one** of the concepts listed above (**A, B, C** or **D**) matches each definition.

Definition	Concept
The length of time the memory store holds information	
Transforming incoming information into a form that can be stored in memory	

(2 marks)

1 (b) Outline the main features of the multi-store model of memory.

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(6 marks)



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- 1 (c) The multi-store model of memory has been criticised in many ways. The following example illustrates a possible criticism.

Some students read through their revision notes lots of times before an examination, but still find it difficult to remember the information. However, the same students can remember the information in a celebrity magazine, even though they read it only once.

Explain why this can be used as a criticism of the multi-store model of memory.

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(4 marks)

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Total for this question: 4 marks

2 Outline how **one** research study investigated the accuracy of eyewitness testimony (EWT).

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(4 marks)

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Total for this question: 9 marks

- 3 A psychologist showed participants 100 different cards, one at a time.

Each card had two unrelated words printed on it, eg DOG, HAT.

Participants in one group were instructed to form a mental image to link the words.

Participants in the other group were instructed simply to memorise the words.

After all the word pairs had been presented, each participant was shown a card with the first word of each pair printed on it. Participants were asked to recall the second word.

The following results were found.

Number of words correctly recalled

	Mental Image Group	Memorising Group
Mean Score	80	45

- 3 (a) What is the independent variable (IV) in this study?

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(2 marks)

- 3 (b) What is the dependent variable (DV) in this study?

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(2 marks)

- 3 (c) What experimental design was used in this study?

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(1 mark)

Turn over ►



3 (d) Explain **one** strength of this experimental design in the context of this study.

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(2 marks)

3 (e) Explain how a psychologist could find out whether these results are reliable.

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(2 marks)

Total for this question: 4 marks

4 A student teacher finds it very difficult to remember pupils' names. She decides to look in a psychology book to find some useful strategies for improving her memory.

Outline **one** strategy the student teacher could use, and explain why this might improve her memory for pupils' names.

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(4 marks)



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Total for this question: 7 marks

5 Traditionally, police have questioned eye witnesses using the standard interview procedure. This involves a period of free recall about an event, followed by specific questions. However, an increasing number of police forces are now using the cognitive interview technique.

5 (a) Explain how a cognitive interview differs from a standard interview.

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5 (b) Psychologists have carried out research into the use of cognitive interviews. One possible ethical issue which might arise during this research is protection of participants from harm. Explain how psychologists could deal with this ethical issue.

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(3 marks)



SECTION B: DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY AND RESEARCH METHODS

Answer **all** questions.

Total for this question: 6 marks

- 6 Ainsworth and Bell observed infants in an unfamiliar room to assess the quality of their attachment to their mother. Observations during this ‘Strange Situation’ related to the following categories of behaviour:

- Exploration – how much the infant explored the unfamiliar room;
- Separation behaviour – how the infant reacted when the mother left;
- Stranger anxiety – the response of the infant to a stranger;
- Reunion behaviour – how the infant reacted when the mother returned.

- 6 (a) Select **two** of these categories and explain how the behaviour of securely attached infants and insecurely attached infants would be different in the ‘Strange Situation’.

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(2 marks + 2 marks)

- 6 (b) Briefly explain why some children show characteristics of secure attachment and some characteristics of insecure attachment.

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(2 marks)

Turn over ▶



Total for this question: 6 marks

7 One situation in which disruption of attachment can occur is when a mother of a young child is admitted into hospital. A researcher decided to study the behaviour of a two-year-old boy who experienced this disruption of attachment.

She decided to use naturalistic observation of the boy both before his mother was admitted into hospital and after she returned home. Each period of observation lasted for one hour.

7 (a) Suggest **two** suitable behavioural categories the researcher could use to record the boy's behaviour.

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(2 marks)

7 (b) How might the researcher record the boy's behaviour during the one-hour observation?

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(2 marks)

7 (c) Explain why the psychologist might want to carry out a pilot study before the main observation.

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(2 marks)



Total for this question: 6 marks

8 Outline what research has shown about the effects of day care on children's aggressive behaviour.

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Total for this question: 6 marks

9 A psychologist analysed the results of ‘Strange Situation’ studies from different countries. Some of the results are shown below.

Country (and number of studies)	% of each type of attachment		
	Secure	Insecure-Avoidant	Insecure-Resistant
Country One (2)	64	7	29
Country Two (18)	65	21	14
Country Three (4)	67	26	7

9 (a) Outline what the table above shows about cultural variations in attachment.

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(3 marks)

9 (b) Explain **one** criticism of investigating cultural variations in attachment using the ‘Strange Situation.’

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(3 marks)



Total for this question: 12 marks

10 Psychologists have put forward different explanations of attachment, such as learning theory and Bowlby's theory.

Outline and evaluate **one or more** explanations of attachment.

You may use this space to plan your answer

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(12 marks)

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END OF QUESTIONS



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