PSYCHOLOGY
a l e v e l . c o m

A-level

PSYCHOLOGY

Model Answers for **Introductory Topics in Psychology** *#1*

Paper 1 (7182/1)   Question set #1

Information

- This is an example paper with model answers based on the format of the AQA A-level introductory topics in psychology paper (7182/1).
- This is question set #1. Other example papers with different question sets and model answers are available for introductory topics in psychology (and for the psychology in context and issues and options papers too)
- The maximum mark for this paper is 96. The example answers provided are model answers that would be awarded full marks.
- Answers are marked according to the assessment objectives outlined on page 9. The available marks for each assessment objective are listed below each question.
- This paper is divided into four sections, each with 24 available marks:
  - Section A: Social influence
  - Section B: Memory
  - Section C: Attachment
  - Section D: Psychopathology

Section A

Social influence

01 Describe how Asch investigated conformity to group consensus.

[4 marks]
(AO1 = 4)

Asch recruited 123 male student participants. He told them they were taking part in a study of visual perception. The experiment put the participants in groups with 7-9 confederates and asked the participants to say which example line was closest in length to another line. In some trials, the confederates would all give the same wrong answer (the independent variable) in order to measure the extent to which the participants would conform to an incorrect group consensus (the dependent variable). These results were compared against the results of a control group, who completed the same task alone.

In 1993, a poll of 753 British adults found that 324 supported same-sex marriage. When a similar poll of 500 British adults was conducted in 2021, researchers found that 378 – a majority – supported same-sex marriage.

02 Calculate the percentage of British adults who supported same-sex marriage in 1993. Show your workings.

[2 marks]
(AO2 = 2)

324 / 753 = 0.43

0.43 x 100 = 43%

03 The poll shows that a greater percentage of people support same-sex marriage in 2021 than in 1993.

Using your knowledge of social influence processes in social change, explain possible reasons for this change in behaviour.

[6 marks]
(AO2 = 6)

Current social norms are determined by majority influence (conformity) but minority influence can challenge these social norms and cause social change. In this case, support for same-sex marriage was a minority view in 1993, but minority influence (e.g. gay rights campaigners) converted members of the majority to the minority's beliefs in a snowball fashion so that support for same-sex was the majority view in 2021. The success of the minority in establishing new social norms is likely to have been influenced by their consistency and commitment to supporting same-sex marriage over many years. Supporters of same-sex marriage may also have shown flexibility (e.g. compromising with those who oppose same-sex marriage). In addition to minority influence, normative social influence is likely to have increased support for same-sex marriage. For example, homophobia goes against the norms of many groups and so people will comply with supporting same-sex marriage to avoid being rejected by those groups. Compliance with these beliefs may also lead to identification with and internalisation of support for same-sex marriage.

04 Outline **two** variables that affect conformity.

[4 marks]
(AO1 = 4)

Unanimity (i.e. the percentage of the majority who agree): The higher the level of unanimity within a majority (for example, if they all agree), the more likely a person is to conform to the

majority. Lower levels of unanimity mean the person is less likely to conform.

Difficulty: The more difficult a task is, the more likely a person is to conform to the majority opinion. The easier a task is, the less likely a person will conform to the majority.

05 Discuss locus of control as an explanation of resistance to social influence.

[8 marks]
(AO1 = 3, AO3 = 5)

The locus of control is the extent to which a person believes they are in control of their life. If a person has an internal locus of control, they believe their own choices are what determines outcomes in their life. If a person has an external locus of control, they believe that factors outside their control determine their life. Rotter argued that having an internal locus of control makes a person more resistant to social influence.

In the case of conformity, some studies support Rotter's view that an internal locus of control makes a person more resistant to social influence. For example, a meta analysis by Avtgis (1998) found that people with an internal locus of control were less likely to conform to a majority than those with an external locus of control.

In the case of obedience, the evidence linking an internal locus of control and resistance to obedience is mixed. Although there are some studies that have found correlations between an internal locus of control and resistance to obedience, other studies have found no correlation between these two variables (e.g. Schurz (1985)). This suggests that other factors besides an internal locus of control are needed to explain resistance to obedience. In general, internal locus of control is a better explanation of resistance to conformity than resistance to obedience.
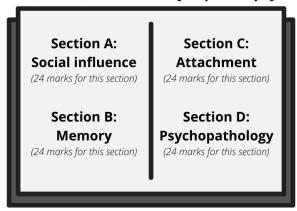
Section B

Memory

06 Remembering how to ride a bicycle is best described as:

Shade one box only.

[1 mark]
(AO1 = 1)

A   Semantic memory.   ☐

B   Short-term memory.   ☐

C   Procedural memory.   ☒

D   Episodic memory.   ☐

This is a sample.

For the rest of this paper, as well as other example papers and model answers, visit [*www.psychologyalevel.com*](www.psychologyalevel.com).

Section C

Attachment

This is a sample.

For the rest of this paper, as well as other example papers and model answers, visit *www.psychologyalevel.com*.

Section D

Psychopathology

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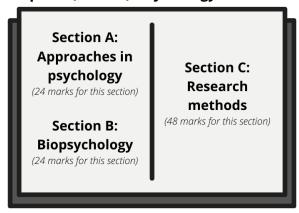
END OF QUESTIONS

A-level exam paper format
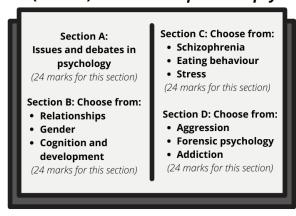
Paper 1 (7182/1): *Introductory topics in psychology*

Section A:
Social influence
(24 marks for this section)

Section C:
Attachment
(24 marks for this section)

Section B:
Memory
(24 marks for this section)

Section D:
Psychopathology
(24 marks for this section)

2 hours, 96 available marks in total

Paper 2 (7182/2): *Psychology in context*

Section A:
Approaches in psychology
(24 marks for this section)

Section C:
Research methods
(48 marks for this section)

Section B:
Biopsychology
(24 marks for this section)

2 hours, 96 available marks in total

Paper 3 (7182/3): *Issues and options in psychology*

Section A:
Issues and debates in psychology
(24 marks for this section)

Section B: Choose from:
- **Relationships**
- **Gender**
- **Cognition and development**

(24 marks for this section)

Section C: Choose from:
- **Schizophrenia**
- **Eating behaviour**
- **Stress**

(24 marks for this section)

Section D: Choose from:
- **Aggression**
- **Forensic psychology**
- **Addiction**

(24 marks for this section)

2 hours, 96 available marks in total

Assessment objectives

Exam responses are graded according to the three *assessment objectives* below. Longer questions often require a mixture of two or more of the following skills, whereas shorter questions may only test for one of these skills.

AO1

AO1 is knowledge and understanding. To pick up these marks, you just need to demonstrate that you know about the specific psychology concept, experiment, or technique you are asked to explain. This typically involves a short description or sometimes answering a multiple-choice question.

AO2

AO2 is application. To pick up these marks, you need to apply your knowledge of psychology to a particular issue or example.

AO3

AO3 is analysis, interpretation, and evaluation. For example, you may be asked to evaluate a psychological study or psychological theory from the syllabus. This evaluation and analysis can take many forms. For example, you may evaluate the reliability of a study's findings or the suitability and ethics of the procedure. Or, you may evaluate the validity of a psychological explanation in light of supporting and conflicting evidence.

Other example papers and model answers

This is a sample.

For full example papers and model answers, visit www.psychologyalevel.com.

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