

OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS
A2 GCE

G544/01

PSYCHOLOGY

**Approaches and Research Methods
in Psychology**

TUESDAY 16 JUNE 2015: Morning

**DURATION: 1 hour 30 minutes
plus your additional time allowance**

MODIFIED ENLARGED

Candidate forename		Candidate surname	
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Centre number						Candidate number				
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Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

OCR SUPPLIED MATERIALS:

None

OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED:

None

READ INSTRUCTIONS OVERLEAF

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the boxes on the first page. Please write clearly and in capital letters.

Use black ink. HB pencil may be used for graphs and diagrams only.

Answer ALL the questions in SECTION A and EITHER Question 8 OR Question 9 in SECTION B.

Read each question carefully. Make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.

Write your answer to each question in the space provided. If additional space is required, you should use the lined page(s) at the end of this booklet. The question number(s) must be clearly shown.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.

The total number of marks for this paper is 80.

Any blank pages are indicated.

SECTION A

Your task is to answer questions about how a piece of research related to the passage below could be conducted.

Learning is often defined in terms of a relatively permanent change in behaviour as a result of experience. This can be tested experimentally by exposing a group of people to a learning experience and testing them to see if they have shown any change in behaviour.

You must choose ONE of the options (a)–(g):

- (a) The effect of exercise on sport performance**
- (b) The effect of mental arithmetic practice on test performance**
- (c) The effect of lie detection training on lie detection**
- (d) The effect of a health promotion campaign on healthy eating**
- (e) The effect of team coaching on sport performance**
- (f) The effect of practice on music performance**
- (g) The effect of group learning on examination performance.**

You must use a repeated measures design experiment and plan to collect at least ordinal level data. It must be a practical project that could be conducted.

SECTION A

Answer ALL the questions in SECTION A in relation to your practical project.

State the option from (a)–(g) that you have chosen for your practical project _____

1 State the null hypothesis for your practical project.

[3]

2

13 marks are awarded for replicability and

appropriateness, and 6 for the quality of the design

and its feasibility.

[13 + 6]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

3 Outline ONE advantage of using the experimental method in your practical project.

[3]

4 (a) Give TWO reasons for using the Wilcoxon signed ranks test to analyse the data in your practical project.

[3]

(b) What does it mean if you find out you have made a Type 1 error in your practical project?

[3]

5 Explain ONE weakness of the sampling method you would use in your practical project.

[3]

6 Briefly discuss ONE ethical issue in relation to your practical project.

[3]

7 Describe an alternative experimental design to using repeated measures in your practical project.

[3]

SECTION B

Answer EITHER Question 8 OR Question 9.

EITHER

- 8 (a) Outline the individual differences approach to psychology. [4]**
- (b) Describe TWO pieces of research that use the individual differences approach to psychology. [8]**
- (c) Discuss the strengths and limitations of the individual differences approach to explain behaviour. Use examples of psychological research to support your answer. [12]**
- (d) Compare the individual differences approach with the physiological approach. Use examples of psychological research to support your answer. [8]**
- (e) Discuss the reliability of research that takes the physiological approach to psychology. [8]**

If you choose to answer Question 8, write your answers on pages 14 to 21.

OR

- 9 (a) Outline what is meant by reductionism in psychology. [4]**
- (b) Describe TWO pieces of research which can be considered reductionist. [8]**
- (c) Discuss the strengths and limitations of research that is reductionist. Use examples of psychological research to support your answer. [12]**
- (d) Compare the self-report method with any other research method. Use examples of psychological research to support your answer. [8]**
- (e) Discuss the validity of psychological research which uses the self-report method. [8]**

If you choose to answer Question 9, write your answers on pages 22 to 29.

EITHER

8 (a) Outline the individual differences approach to psychology.

[4]

(b) Describe TWO pieces of research that use the individual differences approach to psychology. [8]

[illegible]

[12]

[illegible]

[illegible]

(d) Compare the individual differences approach with the physiological approach. Use examples of psychological research to support your answer. [8]

[illegible]

(e) Discuss the reliability of research that takes the physiological approach to psychology. [8]

OR

- 9 (a) Outline what is meant by reductionism in psychology.**

[4]

- (b) Describe TWO pieces of research which can be considered reductionist.**

[8]

[illegible]

(c) Discuss the strengths and limitations of research that is reductionist. Use examples of psychological research to support your answer.

[12]

[illegible]

[illegible]

(d) Compare the self-report method with any other research method. Use examples of psychological research to support your answer. [8]

[illegible]

(e) Discuss the validity of psychological research which uses the self-report method.

[8]

END OF QUESTION PAPER

ADDITIONAL ANSWER SPACE

If additional answer space is required, you should use the following lined pages. The question number(s) must be clearly shown in the margins.

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