

OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS
A2 GCE

G544/01

PSYCHOLOGY

**Approaches and Research Methods
in Psychology**

WEDNESDAY 16 JANUARY 2013: Morning

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

MODIFIED ENLARGED 18pt

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.

SECTION A

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

Naturalistic observations are conducted by psychologists when they want to find out how people behave without experimental manipulation. Today psychologists should adhere to the British Psychological Society (BPS) guidelines to avoid unethical treatment of participants. With sufficient training, psychologists can detect small differences in behaviour, such as facial expression and gesture, to infer how people are feeling and thinking.

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

- (a) Mobile phone usage**
- (b) Helping behaviour**
- (c) Eating behaviour**
- (d) Study habits**
- (e) Romantic behaviour**
- (f) Cigarette smoking**
- (g) Aggressive behaviour**

You must design a structured observation so that data can be collected using event sampling. 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) you have chosen for your practical project _____

1 State the aim of your practical project.

[3]

2 Describe the method you would use to conduct your practical project.

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 disadvantage of using observation in your practical project.

[3]

4 Discuss strengths and weaknesses of the type of data you would collect in your practical project.

[6]

5 Describe how you could present the data that would be collected in your practical project.

[3]

6 Explain how you would address ONE ethical issue in your practical project.

[3]

7 Outline how time sampling could be used in your practical project.

[3]

SECTION B

Answer EITHER question 8 OR question 9.

EITHER

- 8 (a) Briefly outline what is meant by reliability in psychological research. [4]**
- (b) Describe TWO pieces of psychological research that can in some way be considered reliable. [8]**
- (c) Discuss strengths and limitations of conducting research that may be considered reliable. Use examples of psychological research to support your answer. [12]**
- (d) Compare the experimental method with one other method of measuring behaviour. Use examples of psychological research to support your answer. [8]**
- (e) Discuss the usefulness of psychological research that uses the experimental method. [8]**

IF YOU CHOOSE TO ANSWER QUESTION 8, WRITE YOUR ANSWERS ON PAGES 14 TO 21

OR

- 9 (a) Briefly outline what is meant by individual and situational explanations of behaviour. [4]**
- (b) Describe TWO pieces of psychological research that support a situational explanation of behaviour. [8]**
- (c) Discuss strengths and limitations of situational explanations of behaviour. Use examples of psychological research to support your answer. [12]**
- (d) Compare methods used to study individual and situational explanations of behaviour. Use examples of psychological research to support your answer. [8]**
- (e) Discuss the usefulness of research that emphasises individual explanations of behaviour. [8]**

IF YOU CHOOSE TO ANSWER QUESTION 9, WRITE YOUR ANSWERS ON PAGES 22 TO 29

EITHER

8 (a) Briefly outline what is meant by reliability in psychological research.

[4]

(b) Describe TWO pieces of psychological research that can in some way be considered reliable.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[8]

[illegible]

[8]

OR

- 9 (a) Briefly outline what is meant by individual and situational explanations of behaviour.**

[4]

- (b) Describe TWO pieces of psychological research that support a situational explanation of behaviour.**

[illegible]

This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[8]

(e) Discuss the usefulness of research that emphasises individual explanations of behaviour.

[illegible]

[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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