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Markscheme

May 2019

Psychology

Higher level

Paper 1

12 pages

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Section A markbands

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| Marks | Level descriptor |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 0 | The answer does not reach a standard described by the descriptors below. |
| 1–3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The response is of limited relevance to or only rephrases the question. • Knowledge and understanding is mostly inaccurate or not relevant to the question. • The research supporting the response is mostly not relevant to the question and if relevant only listed. |
| 4–6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The response is relevant to the question, but does not meet the command term requirements. • Knowledge and understanding is accurate but limited. • The response is supported by appropriate research which is described. |
| 7–9 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The response is fully focused on the question and meets the command term requirements. • Knowledge and understanding is accurate and addresses the main topics/problems identified in the question. • The response is supported by appropriate research which is described and explicitly linked to the question. |

PDF Compressor Free Version **Section A**

Biological approach to understanding behaviour

1. Describe localization with reference to **one** relevant study.

[9]

Refer to the paper 1 section A markbands when awarding marks.

The command term “describe” requires candidates to give a detailed account of localization of function related to one relevant study.

Responses should describe localization of function, clearly indicating how a specific area of the brain is, or specific areas are, involved in behaviour or cognition.

Candidates should refer to an appropriate study that is relevant to the biological approach.

Examples of studies could include but are not limited to:

- localization of speech production/understanding (Wernicke, 1900; Broca, 1861)
- the role of the hippocampus in episodic, semantic memory or spatial memory (Corkin, 1997; Maguire, 2000)
- the role of the amygdala in aggression (Matthies *et al.*, 2012) or memory (McGaugh and Cahill, 1995; Sharot *et al.*, 2007)
- role of the prefrontal lobe in decision making (Bechara, 1999).

If a candidate describes localization of function with reference to more than one study, credit should be given only to the first study.

If a candidate describes a relevant study, but localization of function and its link to the study is not explicitly described, up to a maximum of **[4]** should be awarded.

If a candidate addresses localization of function but does not refer to an appropriate study, up to a maximum of **[5]** should be awarded.

Cognitive approach to understanding behaviour

2. Describe **one** study investigating reconstructive memory.

[9]

Refer to the paper 1 section A markbands when awarding marks.

The command term “describe” requires candidates to give a detailed account of one study investigating reconstructive memory.

The description of the study should include the aim, procedure and results of the study. The description should explicitly demonstrate conceptual understanding of reconstructive memory.

Examples of appropriate studies could include but are not limited to:

- Bartlett (1932), Brewer and Treyens (1981) on the role of schema
- Neisser and Harsh (1992); Loftus and Pickerell (1995); Shaw and Porter (2015) on reconstruction of autobiographical memory
- Loftus (1993) and Loftus and Palmer’s (1974) studies on eyewitness memories
- Yuille and Cutshall’s (1986) study that argued that in highly emotional situations, memories may not be reconstructed or open to distortion.

If a candidate describes more than one study, credit should be given only to the first study.

If a candidate describes or explains a theory of reconstructive memory – for example, the role of schema or emotion on memory – but does not refer to an appropriate study, apply the markbands up to a maximum of **[4]**.

Sociocultural approach to understanding behaviour

3. Explain **one** cultural dimension with brief reference to **one** relevant study.

[9]

Refer to the paper 1 section A markbands when awarding marks.

The command term “explain” requires candidates to give a detailed account, including reasons or causes, of one cultural dimension.

Cultural dimensions may include, but are not limited to:

- individualism versus collectivism (Berry, 1967; Chen *et al.*, 2005)
- power/distance (Zhang *et al.*, 2010; Lynn *et al.*, 1993; Eylon and Au, 1999)
- long-term versus short-term orientation (Confucian dynamism) (Hofstede and Bond, 1988)
- masculinity versus femininity (Vunderick and Hofstede, 1998)
- uncertainty avoidance (Shane, 1995).

Responses should present the core traits that define the cultural dimension. For example, individualistic societies focus on uniqueness, achievement and freedom, whereas collectivistic societies focus on family, relationships and a common fate or heritage.

Candidates could explain the chosen cultural dimension generally, such as it is the effect of a culture on the beliefs and values of a society, or in a more detailed manner with explanations based on social mobility, agricultural versus urban, democratic principles, economic stability, etc. Both explanations are equally acceptable.

If a candidate explains more than one cultural dimension, credit should be given only to the first explanation.

If a candidate describes a relevant study, but a cultural dimension is not explained, up to a maximum of **[4]** should be awarded.

If a candidate explains one cultural dimension without reference to a study, up to a maximum of **[6]** should be awarded.

Section B assessment criteria

A — Focus on the question

To understand the requirements of the question students must identify the problem or issue being raised by the question. Students may simply identify the problem by restating the question or breaking down the question. Students who go beyond this by **explaining** the problem are showing that they understand the issues or problems.

| Marks | Level descriptor |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 0 | Does not reach the standard described by the descriptors below. |
| 1 | Identifies the problem/issue raised in the question. |
| 2 | Explains the problem/issue raised in the question. |

B — Knowledge and understanding

This criterion rewards students for demonstrating their knowledge and understanding of specific areas of psychology. It is important to credit **relevant** knowledge and understanding that is **targeted** at addressing the question and explained in sufficient detail.

| Marks | Level descriptor |
|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 0 | Does not reach the standard described by the descriptors below. |
| 1–2 | The response demonstrates limited relevant knowledge and understanding. Psychological terminology is used but with errors that hamper understanding. |
| 3–4 | The response demonstrates relevant knowledge and understanding but lacks detail. Psychological terminology is used but with errors that do not hamper understanding. |
| 5–6 | The response demonstrates relevant, detailed knowledge and understanding. Psychological terminology is used appropriately |

C — Use of research to support answer

Psychology is evidence based so it is expected that students will use their knowledge of research to support their argument. There is no prescription as to which or how many pieces of research are appropriate for their response. As such it becomes important that the research selected is **relevant** and useful in **supporting** the response. One piece of research that makes the points relevant to the answer is better than several pieces that repeat the same point over and over.

| Marks | Level descriptor |
|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 0 | Does not reach the standard described by the descriptors below. |
| 1–2 | Limited relevant psychological research is used in the response. Research selected serves to repeat points already made. |
| 3–4 | Relevant psychological research is used in support of the response, and is partly explained. Research selected partially develops the argument. |
| 5–6 | Relevant psychological research is used in support of the response and is thoroughly explained. Research selected is effectively used to develop the argument. |

D — Critical thinking

This criterion credits students who demonstrate an inquiring and reflective attitude to their understanding of psychology. There are a number of areas where students may demonstrate critical thinking about the knowledge and understanding used in their responses and the research used to support that knowledge and understanding.

The areas of critical thinking are:

- research design and methodologies
- triangulation
- assumptions and biases
- contradictory evidence or alternative theories or explanations
- areas of uncertainty.

These areas are not hierarchical and not all areas will be relevant in a response. In addition, students could demonstrate a very limited critique of methodologies, for example, and a well-developed evaluation of areas of uncertainty in the same response. As a result, a holistic judgement of their achievement in this criterion should be made when awarding marks.

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| Marks | Level descriptor |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 0 | Does not reach the standard described by the descriptors below. |
| 1–2 | There is limited critical thinking and the response is mainly descriptive. Evaluation or discussion, if present, is superficial. |
| 3–4 | The response contains critical thinking, but lacks development. Evaluation or discussion of most relevant areas is attempted but is not developed. |
| 5–6 | The response consistently demonstrates well developed critical thinking. Evaluation and/or discussion of relevant areas is consistently well developed. |

E — Clarity and organisation

This criterion credits students for presenting their response in a clear and organized manner. A good response would require no re-reading to understand the points made or the train of thought underpinning the argument.

| Marks | Level descriptor |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 0 | Does not reach the standard described by the descriptors below. |
| 1 | The answer demonstrates some organization and clarity, but this is not sustained throughout the response. |
| 2 | The answer demonstrates organization and clarity throughout the response. |

PDF Compressor Free Version **Section B**

4. Discuss **two or more** ethical considerations in animal research when investigating the brain and behaviour.

[22]

Refer to the paper 1 section B assessment criteria when awarding marks.

The command term “discuss” requires candidates to offer a considered review of the ethical considerations related to non-human animals and psychological research.

Candidates will likely describe the current guidelines (eg British Psychological Society, American Psychological Association) that regulate using animals for the purposes of research.

A wide range of research studies may be relevant, but the focus of the response should be on ethical considerations, and not an evaluation of the methodology of studies. Evaluation of research which is not focused on ethical considerations is not relevant to this question.

Ethical considerations include, but are not limited to:

- animal welfare (the care of animals in captivity)
- reduction of the number of animals used
- refinement: using less invasive techniques
- replacement: searching for alternatives to animal research
- undue stress and harm
- use of a cost-benefit analysis to determine whether the research has value.

Discussion points may include, but are not limited to:

- advancements made as a result of animal research/the effectiveness of animal research
- attempts made over the years to improve the conditions for animals used in research
- change over time in ethical approaches to animal research
- how the use of animals can or cannot be justified
- the rationale for the use of animals.

A discussion of ethical standards for human research – informed consent, deception, right to withdraw or debriefing – is of marginal relevance and will earn low marks for criteria B and D.

If a candidate only discusses one ethical consideration, the response should be awarded up to a maximum of **[3]** for criterion B: knowledge and understanding.

5. Discuss one or more biases in thinking and/or decision-making.

[22]

Refer to the paper 1 section B assessment criteria when awarding marks.

The command term “discuss” requires candidates to offer a considered review of the influence of biases in thinking and/or decision-making.

Thinking and decision-making are closely related cognitive processes and candidates do not need to make a distinction between the two.

Candidates may address examples of biased thinking and/or decision-making in relation to specific aspects of human behaviour or address behaviour in general. Both approaches are equally acceptable.

Examples of biased thinking and/or decision-making may include, but are not limited to:

- specific biases (*eg* confirmation, optimism, selective attention)
- illusory correlation
- effects of framing
- heuristics (*eg* anchoring, availability, representativeness)

Examples of research studies may include, but are not limited to:

- Chapman and Chapman (1969); Stone *et al.* (1997) on confirmation bias
- Englisch and Mussweiler (2001); Strack and Mussweiler (1997) on anchoring bias
- Hamilton and Gifford (1976); Snyder and Swann (1978); Song and Schwarz (2007) on illusory correlation
- Tversky and Kahneman (1981) on framing effects
- Zebrowitz and McDonald (1991); Verhulst *et al* (2010); Palmer and Peterson (2012) on halo effect

Discussion may include, but is not limited to:

- Applications of findings – for example, in marketing or in understanding health-related behaviour
- Cultural and gender differences in cognitive biases
- Difficulties in studying cognitive processes – *eg* isolation of variables and measuring cognition; artificial nature of experimental research
- Explanations of why cognitive biases occur – *eg* linking to Dual Process Theory

Candidates may address one bias in order to demonstrate depth of knowledge, or may address a larger number of biases in order to demonstrate breadth of knowledge. Both approaches are equally acceptable.

6. Evaluate social identity theory, with reference to **one or more** studies. [22]

Refer to the paper 1 section B assessment criteria when awarding marks.

The command term “evaluate” requires candidates to make an appraisal by weighing up the strengths and limitations of social identity theory. Although a discussion of both strengths and limitations is required, it does not have to be evenly balanced to gain high marks.

Studies related to social identity theory may include but are not limited to:

- Tajfel's studies on social groups and identities
- Sherif *et al.*'s Robbers Cave study (1961)
- Cialdini *et al.*'s Basking in Reflected Glory study (1976)
- Abrams's study of the role of social identity on levels of conformity (1990)
- Maass's study of the role of social identity on violence (2003).

Evaluation may include, but is not limited to:

- the effectiveness of the theory in explaining behaviour
- the productivity of the theory in generating psychological research
- methodological, cultural and gender considerations
- contrary findings or explanations
- applications of the theory.

If the candidate addresses only strengths or only limitations, the response should be awarded up to a maximum of **[3]** for criterion D: critical thinking.