



Cambridge International AS & A Level

CANDIDATE
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PSYCHOLOGY

9990/02

Paper 2 Research Methods

For examination from 2024

SPECIMEN PAPER

1 hour 30 minutes

You must answer on the question paper.

No additional materials are needed.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **all** questions.
- Use a black or dark blue pen. You may use an HB pencil for any diagrams or graphs.
- Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the boxes at the top of the page.
- Write your answer to each question in the space provided.
- Do **not** use an erasable pen or correction fluid.
- Do **not** write on any bar codes.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 60.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].

This document has **10** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

Section A

Answer **all** questions.

1 From the study by Andrade (doodling):

Describe **two** ways that variables were controlled / the procedure was standardised.

1

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2

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[4]

2 From the study by Perry et al. (personal space):

Outline what is meant by a 'placebo', including the example from this study.

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[2]

3 From the study by Piliavin et al. (subway Samaritans):

(a) Describe how the quantitative data was collected in this study.

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..... [2]

(b) Suggest **one** strength of collecting quantitative data in this study.

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..... [2]

4 Explain what is measured by the standard deviation.

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..... [2]

5 In the study by Pozzulo et al. (line-ups), the experimenters wore 'professional-casual clothing'.

(a) Name **one** example of 'professional-casual clothing' worn by the experimenters in this study.

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..... [1]

(b) Explain why wearing 'professional-casual clothing' was necessary.

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..... [2]

6 Describe **two** ways that dependent variables can be measured, using any examples.

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[6]

7 Xanthe is conducting a study to investigate whether there is a correlation between how funny a person finds jokes and how much activity there is in a particular brain region. She plans to measure brain activity using a brain scan.

(a) Suggest **one** way that Xanthe could measure how funny a participant thinks each joke is.

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..... [2]

(b) Xanthe finds a correlation in her study.

Explain **one** type of correlation that Xanthe could have found, using the variables she is measuring.

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..... [3]

(c) Xanthe also plans to investigate whether there is a correlation between activity in the same part of the brain and sad stimuli rather than funny ones.

Explain **one** ethical problem with Xanthe’s new study that she did **not** have in the original study.

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..... [2]

8 Robin is using a questionnaire to investigate the use of social media by 13–14-year-old children.

(a) Suggest **one** question that Robin could use to collect qualitative data.

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..... [1]

(b) When the children answer the questions, they might tell lies instead of telling the truth.

(i) Explain why the children telling lies would be a problem for the validity of the results.

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..... [2]

(ii) Suggest **one** way that Robin could reduce the problem of children telling lies.

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..... [2]

(c) Robin wants to use a wide range of children in his sample.

(i) Suggest how he could obtain a wide range of children in his sample.

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..... [2]

(ii) Explain why it is important for Robin to have a wide range of children in his sample.

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..... [2]

9 Huan is planning a study to investigate attitudes to mental health. He will use an interview.

(a) (i) Suggest **one** closed question that Huan could use to collect data about attitudes to mental health.

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..... [1]

(ii) Suggest **one** weakness of using closed questions to collect data in Huan’s study.

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..... [2]

(b) Suggest **two** advantages for Huan of using an interview in his study, rather than a questionnaire.

1

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..... [4]

(c) Huan is going to use opportunity sampling.

Explain **one** weakness of using an opportunity sample in this study.

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..... [10]

(b) (i) Describe **one** practical/methodological strength of the procedure you have described in your answer to part **(a)**.

Do **not** refer to re-contacting the participants, sampling or ethics in your answer.

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..... [2]

(ii) Explain why the feature of the procedure you have identified in **(i)** is a strength.

Do **not** refer to re-contacting the participants, sampling or ethics in your answer.

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..... [2]

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