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SECTION A – Multiple-choice questions

Question 1
Which of the following is generally considered to be a non-scientific approach to explaining human behaviour?
A. neuropsychology
B. numerology
C. behaviourism
D. social psychology

Answer is B

Explanatory notes
- A is incorrect as neuropsychology is a valid area of psychology based around the structure and functioning of the brain.
- B is correct as numerology bases personality descriptors around the letters of someone’s name, which is a theory not backed up by empirical evidence.
- C is incorrect as behaviourism is an area of contemporary psychology based around empirical evidence of behaviour and its consequences.
- D is incorrect as social psychology is a valid area of psychology which bases research and theories around the interactions between people.

Question 2
Cara is reading a book. As she is reading the book, the perceptual principle which automatically allows her to see each word as a separate whole item distinct from other words is ______________________, which is a type of ______________________ principle.
A. similarity, gestalt
B. similarity, depth perception
C. proximity, gestalt
D. proximity, depth perception

Answer is C

Explanatory notes
- A is incorrect as although similarity is a gestalt principle, it is automatically used to group items which are alike into single whole units. This would not be used to group letters into distinct whole words.
- B is incorrect as a similarity is not relevant to this scenario, and is also not a depth perception principle.
- C is correct as it is the nearness of the letters to each other which causes us to group the individual letters into distinct, whole words. This is an example of a gestalt principle.
- D is incorrect as although proximity is relevant here, it is not a depth perception principle.
Question 3
When considering treatment for a patient’s mental illness, a psychologist decides that she will work with the patient to identify any negative thought patterns, and teach the patient certain coping strategies based on changing these thought patterns. This psychologist is basing their treatment around which perspective?

A. behavioural
B. cognitive
C. sociocultural
D. biological

*Answer is B*

*Explanatory notes*

- A is incorrect, as a behavioural approach focuses on the overt behaviour carried out by the individual.
- B is correct as a cognitive approach is based around typical thought patterns and habits, and how they can be changed if needed.
- C is incorrect as a sociocultural approach would consider the social environment the individual is functioning within.
- D is incorrect as a biological approach would consider bodily structures, the influence of chemicals within the body or the genetic influences on an individual.

Question 4
In an experiment, the independent variable is the variable which is

A. expected to change as a result of manipulating the dependent variable.
B. measured at the end of the experiment.
C. controlled to eliminate its effect on the dependent variable.
D. intentionally manipulated by the experimenter to check its effect on the dependent variable.

*Answer is D*

*Explanatory notes*

- A is incorrect, as the dependent variable is not manipulated by the experimenter.
- B is incorrect as it is the dependent variable which is measured at the end of the experiment.
- C is incorrect, as this is a description of an extraneous variable.
- D is correct as this is the definition of an independent variable.
**Question 5**
In a research hypothesis, which of the following should **not** be included?

A. independent variable  
B. population  
C. dependent variable  
D. sample size

**Answer is D**

**Explanatory notes**
- A, B and C are incorrect as these are all requirements of a research hypothesis, which should state the IV, DV and population.  
- D is correct as the hypothesis is based around the relevant population, not the sample.

**Question 6**
Which of the following wavelengths **cannot** be perceived by humans?

A. 390 nanometres  
B. 880 nanometres  
C. 500 nanometres  
D. 760 nanometres

**Answer is B**

**Explanatory notes**
- A, C and D are incorrect as the visual perceptual system of humans responds to electromagnetic radiation with wavelengths from 360 to 780 nanometres in length.  
- B is correct as this wavelength cannot be perceived as it outside of the normal range of human perception.
Question 7
Emily is watching her friend Lachie walk towards her. As Lachie approaches Emily, the image size on Emily’s retina will ____________________ and Emily will perceive Lachie as ____________________.
A. increase, remaining the same size
B. increase, becoming larger
C. decrease, remaining the same size
D. decrease, becoming larger

*Answer is A*

*Explanatory notes*
- A is correct as we automatically apply the perceptual principle of size constancy to allow us to appreciate that although a retinal image may be increasing in size, it is because the object is becoming closer rather than larger.
- B is incorrect as we would not perceive an increase in size due to size constancy.
- C and D are incorrect as the retinal image will increase as something approaches us.

Question 8
The processes of perception in order are
A. reception, transduction, transmission, selection, organisation, interpretation.
B. reception, transmission, transduction, selection, organisation, interpretation.
C. organisation, interpretation, selection, transduction, reception, transmission.
D. selection, transduction, transmission, reception, organisation, interpretation.

*Answer is A*

*Explanatory notes*
- A is correct, as the reception of a stimulus occurs, this is transformed to another form of energy, transmitted to the visual cortex, allowing selection, organisation and interpretation to then occur.
- B, C and D are incorrect as these have the order of processes incorrect.
Question 9
Emma wants to investigate the effect of light on the eye. She dims the light in the room and watches the reaction of the pupil. She would find that the diameter of the pupil
A. constricts.
B. dilates.
C. remains constant.
D. transduces electromagnetic energy into electrochemical energy.

*Answer is B*

**Explanatory notes**
- A is incorrect as in dim light a pupil should enlarge to allow more light in. Constricting the pupil would not allow this.
- B is correct as dilating (enlarging) the pupil will allow more light to enter in conditions of dim light.
- C is incorrect as the key role of the pupil is to constrict and dilate to regulate the amount of light entering the pupil.
- D is incorrect, as this describes the process of transduction, which is not carried out by the pupil.

Question 10
Which of the following is not a visual perceptual principle which helps us organise information sent to the visual cortex?
A. gestalt principles
B. depth and distance cues
C. transmission
D. perceptual constancies

*Answer is C*

**Explanatory notes**
- C is the correct alternative as this is not an organising principle. Transmission is a purely physiological process which involves sending the visual information from the retina to the visual cortex.
- A, B and D are all incorrect as they are the visual perceptual principles we use to help organise information sent to the visual cortex.
**Question 11**

Molly is currently working with a number of patients and specialises in the treatment of anxiety and depression. She has the legal ability to prescribe anti-anxiety medication, and in the past has admitted a number of severely depressed individuals to a hospital. Molly is

A. a neuropsychologist.
B. a clinically trained psychologist.
C. a psychiatrist.
D. both A and B.

*Answer is C*

**Explanatory notes**

- A and B are incorrect as any type of psychologist is legally unable to prescribe medication and admit patients to hospitals.
- C is correct. Psychiatrists have a medical degree, followed by years of training in the field of psychiatry. Their registration as a psychiatrist legally allows them to admit patients to hospital and prescribe medication.
- D is incorrect as both A and B are incorrect.
Questions 12–15 relate to the following scenario.

A researcher wishes to investigate whether regular meditation can affect the performance of Australian professional surfers in finals. He gathers the names of all 100 Australian professional surfers and assigns each surfer a number. He then generates 20 numbers with a computer program, and the surfers who correspond to those numbers enter the study. Of these 20, half are taught to meditate over a six-week period (Group 1), and half will not perform meditation (Group 2). He then compares the average number of points scored during finals for each group.

Question 12
In this study, the independent variable is
A. whether or not the surfer meditates.
B. whether the surfer is a professional or an amateur surfer.
C. the surfer’s performance in the finals.
D. whether the surfer became a part of the study or not.

*Answer is A*

*Explanatory notes*
- A is correct as whether the surfer meditates or not is the variable which is being manipulated by the experimenter to gauge its effects on the DV.
- B is incorrect as this was not considered in this study.
- C is incorrect as this is the dependent variable.
- D is incorrect as this is a consideration of sampling, not variables.

Question 13
In this study, the dependent variable is
A. whether or not the surfer meditates.
B. the surfer’s performance in the finals.
C. how long the surfer meditates for.
D. present in the experimental group, but not the control group.

*Answer is B*

*Explanatory notes*
- A is incorrect as this is a description of the independent variable.
- B is correct as the dependent variable is the variable expected to change as a result of manipulating the independent variable (meditation).
- C is incorrect as this was not considered in this study.
- D is incorrect as this is a general description of an independent variable, not a dependent variable.
Question 14
What form of sampling was used in this experiment?
A. stratified sampling
B. stratified random sampling
C. convenience sampling
D. random sampling

*Answer is D*

*Explanatory notes*
- A and B are incorrect as there is no evidence that the population was split into strata with separate sampling from each strata.
- C is incorrect as every member of the population had an equal chance of being chosen for the population – the computer generation of numbers is not a biased sampling technique.
- D is correct as every professional surfer in Australia had an equal chance of being chosen for the study, and selection of one individual did not in any way affect selection of any other individual.

Question 15
What type of research was this investigation?
A. a case study
B. an observational study
C. an experiment
D. a longitudinal study

*Answer is C*

*Explanatory notes*
- A is incorrect as a case study is an in-depth study (often of an individual) based around data from a wide variety of sources.
- B is incorrect, as an observational study would involve watching and recording behaviour, usually without intervening or manipulating a variable within the study.
- C is correct, as the researcher is intentionally manipulating an IV to check its effect on a DV to try to establish cause and effect.
- D is incorrect, as a longitudinal study tracks participants over a prolonged period.
Question 16
Piaget’s theory of development of a child is consideration of which type of development?
A. biological
B. cognitive
C. sociocultural
D. behavioural

Answer is B

Explanatory notes
- A is incorrect as Piaget did not consider the biological processes of development.
- B is correct as Piaget was considering typical thought processes throughout development, which is a cognitive aspect.
- C is incorrect as Piaget did not base his theory around the influence of people and the environment surrounding the children.
- D is incorrect as Piaget was not considering the consequences of behaviour and how they shape a child’s development, nor was he interested in how constant pairings of stimuli may elicit reflex responses.

Question 17
A child in the second stage of Piaget’s theory of development has explained that he believes the best Christmas present for his mother would be a toy truck with flashing lights and big wheels. The child has probably suggested this as he is currently still showing _____________________ which is an element of the __________________________ stage.
A. egocentrism, pre-operational
B. animism, pre-operational
C. egocentrism, concrete operational
D. animism, concrete operational

Answer is A

Explanatory notes
- A is correct, as egocentrism was suggested by Piaget to occur in younger children during the pre-operational stage, and to involve an inability to see things from any viewpoint other than their own. The child’s inability to see what would be an appropriate present for his mother is an example of this.
- B is incorrect, as animism is the tendency for a child in this stage to attribute consciousness or awareness to all objects, which is not shown in this scenario.
- C and D are incorrect, as both of these concepts are associated with the pre-operational stage.
**Question 18**
When viewing the Ames room through a central peephole, which two depth perception principles are eliminated?

A. convergence and retinal disparity  
B. linear perspective and convergence  
C. accommodation and retinal disparity  
D. accommodation and convergence  

*Answer is A*

**Explanatory notes**
- A is correct. Convergence and retinal disparity are binocular cues, which thus cannot function when looking through one eye.  
- B is incorrect, as both linear perspective and convergence can be experienced with one eye.  
- C and D are incorrect, as accommodation is a monocular cue, and is thus not eliminated when viewing a scene with one eye.

**Question 19**
Dr Peterson is a psychologist studying whether there is a relationship between parenting styles and the ability to form long-term relationships with others in young adults. Dr Peterson is investigating which area(s) of development?

A. biological  
B. neurochemistry  
C. social  
D. both A and B  

*Answer is C*

**Explanatory notes**
- A and B are incorrect as biological and neurochemical investigations would involve consideration of brain structure, genetics or the influence of chemicals on functioning.  
- C is correct as investigation of social development involves determining the influence of family and relationships.  
- D is incorrect as both A and B are incorrect.
Questions 20–23 relate to the following scenario.

Dr Luke is a psychologist who conducts research in a large factory, examining the link between the amount of pay received and how productive a worker is. He gains information on the income of each worker, and then gets their supervisor to rate them on a scale of 1 to 10 as to how hardworking they perceive this person to be. The following week he places a list on the factory notice board with the name of each individual, their pay rate and how hardworking they are perceived to be in order to show that increasing pay rate does not necessarily mean more work will be produced.

Question 20
Dr Luke is most probably which type of psychologist?
A. forensic
B. developmental
C. organisational
D. community

Answer is C

Explanatory notes

- A is incorrect as forensic psychologists work with criminals, police and courts to help understanding of criminal behaviour.
- B is incorrect as developmental psychologists often work in educational settings, such as schools or pre-schools, and focus on developmental issues over the lifespan.
- C is correct as organisational psychologists specialise in employment, training and improving productivity and working conditions in the workforce.
- D is incorrect as community psychologists work in community-based facilities often with minority groups or in conjunction with government organisations.
Question 21
Which ethical principle has most obviously been breached in this research?
A. withdrawal rights
B. voluntary participation
C. confidentiality
D. informed consent
Answer is C
Explanatory notes
- A is incorrect. Withdrawal rights are the right of a participant to leave a study with no pressure placed on him or her to stay. Violation of this is not evident in the scenario.
- B is incorrect as voluntary participation is the participant’s right to enter the study of their own free will with no pressure placed on him or her to participate. Violation of this is not evident in this scenario.
- C is correct as publically identifying those in the study and linking them to income and productivity is a violation of the participants’ rights to remain anonymous.
- D is incorrect as it is not shown that the rights, roles and risks of the study were not explained to the participants.

Question 22
If Dr Luke identified that a number of the workers were struggling with the job due to the fact that there were migrants and were having trouble understanding the language of the supervisor, which perspective of psychology would he be considering?
A. neuropsychological
B. sociocultural
C. biological
D. behavioural
Answer is B
Explanatory notes
- A is incorrect as a neuropsychological perspective would consider the structure of the brain and how it influences the individual.
- B is correct. The sociocultural perspective of psychology considers (amongst other things) the impact of the interaction of different cultures.
- C is incorrect as the biological perspective would consider the genetics, brain or biochemical influences on an individual.
- D is incorrect as the behavioural perspective links behaviour to consequences for an individual with little consideration of the effect of culture.
Question 23
When the supervisor provides a rating of how productive she perceives the worker to be, what type of data is this?
A. quantitative
B. subjective
C. both A and B
D. qualitative
Answer is C
Explanatory notes
• C is correct, as both A and B are correct. The numerical value supplied is quantitative data, but the fact that this is based on a perception made by the supervisor makes it subjective.
• D is incorrect as the data supplied is not detailed and descriptive.

Question 24
In terms of the ageing process and its effect on memory, it is generally considered that for healthy elderly people
A. there will always be considerable memory loss.
B. there is never any effect on memory in elderly people.
C. there will always be at least some symptoms of Alzheimer’s disease.
D. there will be reduced memory capacity in some areas of functioning, but not to a large extent.
Answer is D
Explanatory notes
• A is incorrect as healthy elderly people generally have little memory loss.
• B is incorrect as, although slight, there are often some small reductions in different memory functions.
• C is incorrect as Alzheimer’s disease is not a normal part of the ageing process for most people.
• D is correct as there is slight memory loss in some areas such as working memory or episodic memory as people age, but the losses are often small.
**Question 25**

A psychologist is investigating whether a mother smoking whilst pregnant is associated with development of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in the child that is born. Which type of influence on development is she investigating?

A. nature  
B. nurture  
C. genetics  
D. heredity

*Answer is B*

**Explanatory notes**

- A is incorrect as investigation of the effect of nature would involve determining the genetic influence.
- B is correct. To consider how a trait is nurtured is to consider how the environment has shaped that trait. Whether the mother smokes or not is considering the environment that the foetus has been exposed to.
- C and D are incorrect as the investigation of genetics or heredity involves considering the genetic makeup of the individual.

**Question 26**

Identical twins are often used in research in developmental areas. Identical twins are important in this area as they have what percentage of genetic material in common?

A. 50%  
B. 100%  
C. 25%  
D. 0%

*Answer is B*

**Explanatory notes**

- A, C and D are incorrect as, by definition, identical twins have exactly the same genetic material.
- B is correct as identical twins have all (100%) of their genetic material in common.
Question 27

Which of the following findings is the strongest support for the idea that schizophrenia has a genetic basis?

A. Identical twins raised together have a higher than normal likelihood of both twins developing schizophrenia.

B. Individuals with two parents with schizophrenia have a higher than normal likelihood of developing schizophrenia.

C. Individuals with a fraternal twin with schizophrenia have a slightly higher than normal likelihood of developing schizophrenia.

D. Identical twins raised apart have a higher than normal likelihood of both twins developing schizophrenia.

Answer is D

Explanatory notes

- A, B and C, whilst all true findings are not the most correct alternative, as the questions asks for the strongest support for the genetic basis of schizophrenia. All of these alternatives support the genetic basis of schizophrenia, but do not eliminate the effect of environment.

- D is correct. If identical twins are raised apart, the effects of an identical environment influencing the twins are eliminated. It thus means that psychological traits which are the same for the twins have a genetic basis.

Question 28

A child psychologist is interested in the effects of parenting on children at risk. He samples a group of children and takes note of the type of parenting they are exposed to. He then monitors the children at the ages of 8, 12 and 16 in terms of their behaviour and any problems they display by getting them to complete questionnaires at each of these ages. This study is best described as

A. a longitudinal study.

B. an experiment.

C. a cross-sectional study.

D. naturalistic observation.

Answer is A

Explanatory notes

- A is correct. Monitoring individuals in terms of particular traits as they move through their life is an example of a longitudinal study.

- B is incorrect. This is not an experiment as the psychologist is not intentionally manipulating a variable to check its effect on another variable.

- C is incorrect. Cross-sectional studies take place in a short period of time, with different age groups being compared simultaneously.

- D is incorrect. The participants are monitored by use of a questionnaire. Naturalistic observation involves the researcher monitoring participants merely by watching them in their own environment.
Question 29

Jesse is a four-year-old boy and is in Piaget’s second stage of cognitive development. Jesse is shown 20 pencils in which there is a green, a blue, a yellow and a red pencil. The other 16 pencils are black. Jesse is asked if there are more pencils or more black pencils. Why would he probably state that there are more black pencils?

A. because he is egocentric
B. because he cannot yet understand conservation of mass
C. because he has not yet developed the ability to classify information
D. because he cannot yet understand conservation of number

Answer is C

Explanatory notes

- A is incorrect as egocentricity is the inability to see from another person’s viewpoint.
- B is incorrect as this exercise does not test conservation of mass.
- C is correct. Jesse is showing an inability to organise information into categories based on common features.
- D is incorrect as this exercise does not test conservation of number.

Question 30

When considering the classic perspectives which have helped shape psychology, one important influence is __________________ who focused much of his work on ____________________.

A. Watson, the unconscious
B. James, a behavioural perspective
C. James, structuralism
D. Freud, the unconscious

Answer is D

Explanatory notes

- A is incorrect as Watson’s perspective involved the study of overt behaviour, rather than conscious or unconscious processes.
- B and C are incorrect as James based his perspective around functionalism, or the influence of conscious mental processes.
- D is correct. Freud was the first significant theorist to influence the field of psychology in considering the influence of the unconscious mind.
Question 31
George has been experiencing a number of symptoms of schizophrenia, one of which is his belief that his neighbour is controlling his thoughts through the use of an antenna on the roof of his house. This symptom is
A. a visual hallucination.
B. an auditory hallucination.
C. a negative symptom of schizophrenia.
D. a delusion.
Answer is D
Explanatory notes
- A and B are incorrect. A hallucination is a false perception without sensory input. This symptom does not involve perceiving a visual stimulus which is not based in reality, nor does it involve hearing things not based in reality.
- C is incorrect as a negative symptom of schizophrenia is one which involves a lack of the functions (such as motivation or the ability to feel pleasure) which occur in normal functioning.
- D is correct. A delusion is a belief which has no basis in reality.

Question 32
At which age would an individual be most likely to develop schizophrenia?
A. late adolescence/early adulthood
B. infancy
C. childhood
D. middle to late adulthood
Answer is A
Explanatory notes
- A is correct, as schizophrenia most commonly emerges during late adolescence or early adulthood.
- B, C and D are incorrect as it is rare for schizophrenia to begin during any of these stages of the lifespan.
Question 33
Dr Greg is a cognitive psychologist specialising in treatment of anxiety disorders. Which of the following type of disorder would he most likely not be involved in treating?

A. post-traumatic stress disorder
B. schizophrenia
C. phobias
D. obsessive compulsive disorder

*Answer is B*

*Explanatory notes*
- B is correct. Although there may be an element of anxiety involved, schizophrenia is not a form of anxiety disorder.
- A, C and D are incorrect. These are all recognised forms of anxiety disorder.

Question 34
If Dr Greg is visited by a patient with a form of anxiety, and her physiological reactions during anxiety are noted, which of the following would likely be shown?

A. decreased heart rate
B. increased digestive processes
C. increased respiration rate
D. increased salivation

*Answer is C*

*Explanatory notes*
- A is incorrect. Anxiety often is associated with an increased heart rate.
- B is incorrect. Digestive processes are often inhibited during times of anxiety as resources within the body are redirected to other areas.
- C is correct. Anxiety disorders often have an element of rapid (and shallow) respiration.
- D is incorrect. Salivation often decreases during times of anxiety, leaving an individual with a dry feeling in their mouth.
Questions 35 and 36 refer to the following scenario.

A psychologist recreates Ainsworth’s strange situation test in order to study attachment in infants. During this test a number of behaviours associated with attachment are observed during interactions between an infant, a caregiver and a stranger.

Question 35
When the psychologist is observing how the infant plays and explores when alone with their caregiver, which aspect of attachment are they investigating?

A. stranger anxiety
B. separation anxiety
C. stranger separation
D. use of caregiver as a safe base

Answer is D

Explanatory notes

• A is incorrect. Stranger anxiety can only be investigated if a stranger is present in the room.
• B is incorrect. Separation anxiety would be investigated by the caregiver leaving the room.
• C is incorrect as this is not a term used in the study of attachment.
• D is correct. One of the key behaviours used to determine if an infant is attached is watching if they feel secure enough with their caregiver to display exploratory behaviour.

Question 36
The psychologist decides that the child seems to be showing insecure resistant attachment. A behaviour typical of this type of attachment would be

A. lack of distress when caregiver leaves room.
B. frequent use of the caregiver as a safe base to explore the environment.
C. being easily comforted by a stranger.
D. excessive clinginess to caregiver.

Answer is D

Explanatory notes

• A is incorrect as a lack of distress when a caregiver leaves is typical of insecure avoidant attachment.
• B is incorrect as a frequent use of the caregiver as a safe base indicates secure attachment.
• C is incorrect as being easily comforted by a stranger is typical of insecure avoidant attachment.
• D is correct. Insecure resistant attachment is very much associated with clingy behaviour, extreme distress at separation and apparent anxiety.
Question 37
Gibson’s work with infants and their perceptual development suggests that as an infant explores the world, the encounters an infant has with their environment will allow them to develop understanding about the properties of the things they encounter and how they should be used. According to Gibson these properties are considered to be

A. availabilities.
B. affordances.
C. differentiation.
D. active explorers.

Answer is B

Explanatory notes
- A is incorrect as this is not a term used by Gibson.
- B is correct. Affordances were suggested by Gibson to be the perceived or actual properties of things encountered in the environment.
- C and D are incorrect as although they are terminology used by Gibson, they are not the correct terms for this scenario.

Question 38
Ruth is ninety years of age and has been showing some signs of cognitive change that are typically associated with ageing, especially in very old people. Which of the following would not be considered a typical cognitive change of an elderly person?

A. a decline in memory of experiences she has had
B. a large decline in memory of how to do tasks such as cooking
C. difficulty separating relevant and irrelevant information
D. reduced speed in mental processing

Answer is B

Explanatory notes
- A is incorrect. Episodic memory, or memory of personal experiences, is often the first type of memory to be affected in elderly people.
- B is correct, as although Ruth may have trouble physically reproducing skills, she should not actually lose the memory of how to do things (procedural memories) as this memory system often stays largely intact in the elderly.
- C and D are both incorrect, as these are typical symptoms of cognitive decline of the very old.
Question 39

Erikson’s theory of psychosocial development suggests that the first psychosocial stage of development is

A. intimacy versus isolation.
B. trust versus mistrust.
C. autonomy versus shame.
D. initiative versus guilt.

Answer is B

Explanatory notes

- A, B and D are incorrect as these are all stages associated with development later in life.
- B is correct. Trust versus mistrust is the first stage of Erikson’s theory of psychosocial development.

Question 40

Erikson suggested that children between the ages of three and five have conflict which arises from the increased freedom their parents give them conflicting with criticism parents may give. What is this stage called?

A. initiative versus guilt
B. trust versus mistrust
C. autonomy versus shame and doubt
D. intimacy versus isolation

Answer is A

Explanatory notes

- A is correct as this is the name of the third stage of Erikson’s theory, suggested to occur between the ages of three to five years.
- B and C are incorrect as these two stages are suggested to occur before the age of three.
- D is incorrect as this stage is suggested to occur in middle adulthood.
Question 41
What does ADHD stand for?
A. attention deficit hormone disorder
B. Alzheimer’s deficit hormone disorder
C. attention deficit hyperactivity disorder
D. associative deficit hyperactive disorder

*Answer is C*

**Explanatory notes**
- A, B and D are incorrect.
- C is correct as this is the correct terminology for ADHD.

Question 42
A researcher conducts a study and makes sure that the participants in the study are debriefed. When would debriefing have occurred?
A. before the study began
B. during the study
C. after the study had finished
D. when the participants were signing the informed consent form outlining roles, rights and risks of the study

*Answer is C*

**Explanatory notes**
- A, B and D are incorrect. Debriefing occurs after the study has finished.
- C is correct. The purpose of debriefing is to fully explain some details of the study, check that no harm has been done and to offer counselling services if required. This is done after the study has finished, and is especially important if some form of deception has been used in the study.
Questions 43 and 44 refer to the following scenario.

Albert is eighty years of age. Throughout his life he has been a successful golfer, and continues now to play golf on a social basis. Because he tires easily, he now plays only the tournaments in which his fellow elderly friends play. He also now drives a golf cart around the course rather than walking.

Question 43
According to Baltes’ theory of successful ageing, Albert’s decision to play only some tournaments is an example of
A. accommodation.
B. optimisation.
C. compensation.
D. selection.

Answer is D

Explanatory notes
- A is incorrect. This is not a term used in Baltes’ theory.
- B and C are incorrect, as although these terms help explain Baltes’ theory, they are not the most correct terms for this form of behaviour.
- D is correct. Selection is reducing the number of goals and prioritising these according to current needs.

Question 44
According to Baltes, Albert’s decision to drive a golf cart around the course rather than walking is an example of
A. selection.
B. optimisation.
C. integrity.
D. generativity.

Answer is B

Explanatory notes
- A is incorrect as according to Baltes, selection is a process of choosing goals, which although related to this scenario, is better used to describe the type of tournaments chosen.
- B is correct as according to Baltes, optimisation is the process whereby available resources or opportunities are used to achieve an outcome. Using a golf cart is using a resource which allows golfing to continue.
- C and D are incorrect, as these are terms used by Erikson and are not related to Baltes’ theory.
Question 45

According to Kohlberg, the pre-conventional level of moral reasoning consists of

A. good boy/good girl orientation and authority orientation.
B. social contract orientation and individual principles and conscience orientation.
C. obedience and punishment and naïve reward orientation.
D. social contract orientation and authority orientation.

Answer is C

Explanatory notes

- A and B are incorrect as these are the conventional level and post-conventional level respectively.
- C is correct. Both obedience and punishment and naïve reward are considered to be substages of the first of Kohlberg’s levels (pre-conventional).
- D is incorrect as these are substages of two different levels.
SECTION B – Short-answer questions

Question 1
A psychologist investigating Piaget’s four-stage theory of cognitive development wants to investigate how age is related to the ability to show conservation of volume. More specifically, he wants to compare ability to conserve volume in pre-schoolers and Year Three students.

1a. Describe a test which the psychologist could administer to determine if a child can conserve volume.

**Answer**

1. The psychologist should initially have two containers of liquid which are equal in size and shape, which the child acknowledges have equal amounts of liquid in them.
2. The liquid should be poured from one container into a container of different size and shape thus making the level of the liquid change so that one container has a higher level of liquid.
3. This should be done in front of the child.
4. The child should then be asked which of the containers has more liquid.

**Mark allocation**

- One mark for each of the above points.

1b. If the child cannot conserve volume, how would this be indicated in their response to the test?

**Answer**

The child would answer that the container with the higher level of liquid has more liquid.

**Mark allocation**

- One mark for identification of the higher/more relationship.

1c. If the child can conserve volume, how would this be indicated in their response to the test?

**Answer**

The child would answer that they both have the same amount of liquid.

**Mark allocation**

- One mark for identification of the fact child will know volume stays the same.
1d. How would the psychologist investigate this with a cross-sectional study?  

Answer  
The psychologist would conduct research on the two age groups at the same time and then compare results from the two different age groups.

Mark allocation  
- One mark for study carried out on both age groups at same time; one mark for saying results compared across the two age groups.

1e. The psychologist decides to use a cross-sectional study. Give one reason why this type of study may have been chosen rather than a longitudinal study.

Answer  
1. Cheaper and easier to carry out.
2. Data obtained quickly.
3. Effects of participants leaving study minimised.

Mark allocation  
- One mark for identifying one of the above points.

1f. If the psychologist wished to minimise the effects of personal characteristics affecting their results, should they choose a longitudinal study or a cross-sectional study?

Answer  
Longitudinal.

Mark allocation  
- One mark for identifying longitudinal.

Question 2  
What are two differences between rods and cones in terms of their function?

Answer  
1. Rods are involved in peripheral vision; cones are involved in central vision.
2. Rods are involved in dim light vision; cones are involved in vision in bright light.
3. Rods cannot perceive fine detail; cones can perceive fine detail.

Mark allocation  
- One mark for each of the above differences, up to two marks. Because a difference has been asked for, both rods and cones should be mentioned for each mark. Because the question asks for functional differences, descriptions of differences in shape and location are not appropriate.
Question 3
Describe the Müller–Lyer illusion. 3 marks

Answer
1. Two lines of equal length;
2. One line ends with arrow heads; one line ends with feather tails;
3. Line with feather tails perceived as longer.

Mark allocation
- One mark for each of the above points. This question does not ask for an explanation of the illusion, so no marks should be given for any attempts to describe why the illusion occurs.

Question 4
Aidan is playing basketball, and has just had the ball thrown to him. Aidan catches the ball easily by judging the distance away that the ball is from him. Explain how accommodation has helped Aidan judge that the ball was far away, but has now come closer to him. 4 marks

Answer
1. As the ball comes toward Aidan the lens of his eye will bulge (to focus the image of the ball onto the retina).
2. When the ball is further away the lens of his eye will be more elongated.
3. The brain uses the degree of tension in the ciliary muscles as a depth/distance cue.
4. The greater the tension, the closer the ball is (or the less tension the further away the ball is).

Mark allocation
- One mark for each point above. Muscles which control the lens are ciliary muscles, so these should be mentioned. Strictly speaking no marks should be given unless the scenario is mentioned (i.e. if just a definition of accommodation is given).
Question 5

Martin is five years old and is attending the local pre-school. Martin’s teacher believes that his behaviour throughout the year may indicate that Martin is suffering from attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. She bases this idea on the fact that Martin has constantly been showing behaviours typical of this disorder. List two possible behaviours which may have led Martin’s teacher to suggest this possibility.

Answer

1. Constant fidgeting
2. Excessive talking
3. Difficulty staying seated during mat time/meals
4. Becoming easily distracted
5. Difficulty following instructions
6. Difficulty waiting whilst others talk
7. Physically dangerous play
8. Changing quickly from one task to another
9. Leaving tasks uncompleted

Mark allocation

- One mark for any of the above points, or other relevant point, up to two marks.

Question 6

Using an example of each, explain the difference between a hallucination and a delusion.

Answer

A delusion is a strongly held false belief such as the belief that an individual’s thoughts and behaviours are controlled by others around them. Hallucinations are false perceptions not based on sensory input, such as hearing voices.

Mark allocation

- Two marks for comparison of delusion and hallucinations. As the difference is asked for, both delusions and hallucinations must be mentioned.
- One mark each for appropriate examples.
Question 7
Give the full name of the DSM-IV. 1 mark

Answer
Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders 4th edition

Mark allocation
• Full name should be given – edition possibly not important.

Question 8
In the ‘Heinz’ dilemma, Kohlberg posed a scenario in which a poor man broke into a pharmacist’s store to steal a drug which would save his wife’s life, but which he could not afford to pay for. Kohlberg used responses to this dilemma to classify stages of moral reasoning.

8a. Describe the two substages of Kohlberg’s conventional level of moral reasoning. 2 marks

Answer
1. Good girl/good boy stage in which right and wrong determined by approval of others.
2. Authority orientation stage in which right and wrong determined by following laws put into place by society.

Mark allocation
• One point for each of the points above.

8b. Imogen is in late adolescence and has been asked her response to the Heinz dilemma. She states that Heinz should steal the drug as the need to preserve life is the most important issue, and that this should overcome any laws which forbid stealing. Which level and stage would you suggest Imogen is operating at in terms of moral development? 2 marks

Answer
Postconventional level. Universal–ethical orientation.

Mark allocation
• One mark for each point above.
8c. Opponents of the laws which allow puppies to be bred on ‘puppy farms’ successfully protested against these laws, as they believed them to be cruel and unfair. This was done by way of a lawful protest, in which protesters gathered peacefully on the steps of Parliament House. Which level and stage of Kohlberg’s theory of moral reason would you suggest these protesters are operating at?  

**Answer**  
Postconventional level. Legalistic–social contract orientation.  

**Mark allocation**  
- One mark for each point above.

**Question 9**  
Name and describe one pseudoscience used to describe and predict human behaviour.  

**Answer**  
Astrology – based around time of birth and constellations in the sky.  
Numerology – based on date of birth, or numbers associated with letters in name.  
Phrenology – based on analysis of bumps on skull.  
Scientology – based on alien spirit and reincarnation, with distinct parts to the mind.  
Palmistry – based on lines on palm.  

**Mark allocation**  
- Examples above or other appropriate examples. Name one mark, description one mark.
SECTION C – Extended-response question

A researcher wants to investigate her idea that exercise will relieve the symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The researcher has access to the register of people who suffer from this disorder. She takes a stratified sample of one hundred participants, stratified for gender. She then splits the sample into two groups. One group is instructed to carry out regular exercise for a period of three months, and the other is not instructed to carry out regular exercise for a period of three months. At the end of the three-month period the researcher compares the two groups on a number of measures. Firstly she asks them to describe how they feel whenever they think of the situation which caused their condition. She also asks them to rank the severity of their symptoms on a rating scale from 0 (no symptoms at all) to 10 (extremely severe symptoms).

Write a brief summary of the above research procedures and findings. In your summary you should include

- the aim of the study
- the population
- the independent variable
- the dependent variable
- the different measures of the dependent variable, including identification of qualitative and quantitative data and ease of comparison of different data types
- a hypothesis which was being tested
- a possible extraneous variable
- a description of one ethical principle and how it could be covered in this study.

11 marks

Answer

Aim: to investigate the influence of exercise on symptoms of PTSD (1)

Population: sufferers of PTSD (1)

IV: whether the participants exercised or not (exercised regularly for three months or not) (1)

DV: symptoms of PTSD (1)

Different measures: qualitative measure of description of symptoms. Quantitative measure of ranking scale. Easier to compare the numerical (quantitative data) than the descriptive data. (1 + 1 + 1)

Hypothesis: Sufferers of PTSD who regularly exercise will have reduced symptoms of PTSD compared to those sufferers of PTSD who do not regularly exercise. (2)

Any relevant extraneous variable (e.g. intensity of exercise, if the amount of exercise is controlled in the control group, unbalanced groups in terms of severity of symptoms, effect of expectations on the DV) (1)

Any relevant ethical principle described with reference to the study (1)
Mark allocation

- Suggested marks for point given in brackets above. In accordance with Units 3 and 4, this extended response could be covered in dot point form. Although the report on research activities in Units 3 and 4 VCAA exams appears to be based on standard reporting format, some students may not have encountered write-ups of ERAs. It therefore cannot be a requirement to use this format in Unit 1.

END OF SECTION C

END OF SOLUTIONS BOOK