



GCSE EXAMINERS' REPORTS

PSYCHOLOGY

SUMMER 2015

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PSYCHOLOGY

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Summer 2015

UNIT 1 - SOCIAL, BIOLOGICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

Principal Examiner: Andy Favager

1.
 - (a) Very generic answers with many candidates not referring to a specific effect of stress on the body and or mind and only received partial credit.
 - (b) Generally well answered many candidates gaining full credit.
 - (c) Again well answered.
 - (d) Generally a well answered question but some candidates referred to the wrong study such as Holmes and Rahe and life events and consequently received no credit.
 - (e) (i) and (ii) answers were again very generic and the strength and weakness was not explained in detail and consequently the candidate only received partial credit.
2.
 - (a) Well answered.
 - (b) (i)&(ii) Well answered.
 - (c) Well answered.
 - (d) Generally most candidates receiving some credit but many only gained partial credit as they answered the question by just describing what happened to brain damaged individuals such as HM and Gage.
3.
 - (a) Well answered with many candidates gaining 3-4 marks.
 - (b) Most candidates achieved some credit but many answers lacked detail.
 - (c) Many candidates referred to ethical issues such as lack of consent and right to withdraw which consequently received no credit the only ethical issue creditworthy when referring to animals is protection from harm.
 - (d) Most candidates answered this well and achieved 3-4 marks.
4.
 - (a) Many candidates wrote answers that were too broad and received no credit e.g. following the crowd.
 - (b) Again many candidates wrote answers that were too broad and received no credit e.g. the role of a mother without explaining what that role was.

- (c) Generally well answered with many candidates describing a good strength of Zimbardo's study.
 - (d) (i), (ii) & (iii) Candidates who referred to the question and clearly knew Sherif's study answered these questions well but a lot of candidates did not refer to the question and clearly did not know the Sherif study and some referred to Ash's study of conformity and consequently received no credit.
- 5.
- (a) Generally well answered with most candidates gaining full marks.
 - (b) (i) and (ii) generally well answered
 - (c) Most candidates knew this theory and listed the three factors with some elaboration for full marks but some candidates clearly did not know the theory and gained no credit for just discussing what it was like to be in love.
- 6.
- (a) Generally well answered.
 - (b) Most candidates gained some credit for this question but many failed to refer to the source material and therefore only gained partial credit.
 - (c) Many candidates achieved 3-4 marks for this question as relevant information was selected illustrating some range.

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UNIT 2 - COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY; INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES; AND ETHICS AND RESEARCH METHODS IN PSYCHOLOGY

Principal Examiner: Andy Favager

1.
 - (a) Generally well answered.
 - (b) Most candidates received partial credit for stating it protects the eye.
 - (c) Generally well answered.
 - (d) Answers here were mixed many candidates writing as much as they could about visual illusions and consequently receiving some credit but many of these answers were muddled with comments about Gestalt.
2.

Parts (a) and (b) were both poorly answered.

 - (c)
 - (i) Generally well answered although some candidates drew a scatter graph which received only partial credit for labelling of x and y axis.
 - (ii) Many candidates just referred to findings which consequently received no credit.
 - d) (i)&(ii) Generally well answered with many candidates writing generic answers e.g. an advantage good control of variables a disadvantage lack of ecological validity.
3.
 - (a) Marking was rigid on this question with the correct definition of abnormality being credited e.g. deviation from social norms many candidates received no credit as they wrote the wrong definition or no definition e.g. social norms
 - (b) Despite not answering part a) correctly most candidates still received some credit for their answers e.g. how definitions of abnormality change historically and across time.
 - (c) Most candidates received full marks for this question although some just defined the term e.g. hyperactive disorder and this received no credit as a possible symptom of ADHD.
4.
 - (a) Most candidates attempted this but it was clear many did not know Bruner's modes of representation and were just guessing by trying to match each mode with the correct definition.
 - (b) Again a lot of generic answers here with most candidates receiving partial credit for describing scaffolding as support offered by an adult to aid a child's learning.

- (c) (i)&(ii) This was attempted by most candidates with some achieving full marks but many clearly did not know what a matched pairs design was and consequently received little or no credit.
 - (ii) Generally well answered with most candidates receiving full credit.
 - (iii) Again well answered although some candidates again struggled with making an appropriate conclusion and just repeated the findings which received no credit.
5. (a) A lot of candidates misread this question and gave two symptoms of phobias but failed to take them from the list given in the question and consequently received no credit.
- (b) Most candidates received partial credit for describing flooding but most descriptions were basic and achieved 1-2 marks.
- (c) This question was generally well answered with most candidates gaining some credit although some fell into the trap of just describing the treatment from the biological approach without discussing how effective it was. Also some candidates misread the question and discussed the treatment used by the behavioural approach and consequently this received no credit.
6. (a) Generally well answered most candidates clearly identifying the two covariables.
- (b) Again generally well answered but many candidates only received partial credit as they did not refer to the study.
- (c) (i)&(ii) Again generally well answered but again a lot of candidates only received partial credit as they made no reference to the study.
- (d) (i) Most candidates correctly named one ethical issue but some just stated confidentiality or informed consent which received no credit they needed to state lack of confidentiality or lack of informed consent.
- (ii) Despite gaining no credit for i) candidates could still receive credit for the ethical issues that might have been implied in i). Again though many candidates only received partial credit as they did not refer to the research.



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