

INTERNATIONAL AS PSYCHOLOGY (9685)

Mark scheme

Unit 2: Biopsychology, development and research methods 1 Specimen 2018 Mark schemes are prepared by the lead assessment writer and considered, together with the relevant questions, by a panel of subject teachers. This mark scheme includes any amendments made at the standardisation events which all associates participate in and is the scheme which was used by them in this examination. The standardisation process ensures that the mark scheme covers the students' responses to questions and that every associate understands and applies it in the same, correct way. As preparation for standardisation each associate analyses a number of students' scripts. Alternative answers not already covered by the mark scheme are discussed and legislated for. If, after the standardisation process, associates encounter unusual answers which have not been raised they are required to refer these to the lead assessment writer.

It must be stressed that a mark scheme is a working document, in many cases further developed and expanded on the basis of students' reactions to a particular paper. Assumptions about future mark schemes on the basis of one year's document should be avoided; whilst the guiding principles of assessment remain constant, details will change, depending on the content of a particular examination paper.

International AS Psychology mark scheme

How to mark

Aims

When you are marking your allocation of scripts your main aims should be to:

- · recognise and identify the achievements of students
- place students in the appropriate mark band and in the appropriate part of that mark band (high, low, middle) for **each** Assessment Objective
- record your judgements with brief notes, annotations and comments that are relevant to the mark scheme and make it clear to other examiners how you have arrived at the numerical mark awarded for each Assessment Objective
- ensure comparability of assessment for all students, regardless of question or examiner.

Approach

It is important to be **open-minded** and **positive** when marking scripts.

The specification recognises the variety of experiences and knowledge that students will have. It encourages them to study psychology in a way that is relevant to them. The questions have been designed to give them opportunities to discuss what they have found out about psychology. It is important to assess the quality of **what the student offers**.

Do not mark scripts based on the answer **you** would have written. The mark schemes have been composed to assess **quality of response** and not to identify expected items of knowledge.

Assessment Objectives

This component requires students to:

AO1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, processes, techniques and procedures.
AO2	Apply knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, processes, techniques and procedures:
	in a theoretical context
	in a practical context
	when handling qualitative data
	when handling quantitative data.
AO3	Analyse, interpret and evaluate scientific information, ideas and evidence, including in relation to issues, to:
	make judgements and reach conclusions
	develop and refine practical design and procedures.

The marking grids

Do not think of levels equalling grade boundaries.

Depending on the part of the examination, the levels will have different mark ranges assigned to them. This will reflect the different weighting of Assessment Objectives in particular tasks and across the examination as a whole.

Using the grids

Having familiarised yourself with the descriptors and indicative content, read through the answer and annotate it (as instructed below) to identify the qualities that are being looked for and that it shows. You can now check the levels and award a mark.

Step 1 Determine a level

Start at the lowest level of the mark scheme and use it as a ladder to see whether the answer meets the descriptors for that level. The descriptors for the level indicate the different qualities that might be seen in the student's answer for that level. If it meets all the descriptors for the lowest level then go to the next one and decide if it meets this level, and so on, until you have a match between the level descriptors and the answer. With practice and familiarity you will find that for better answers you will be able to skip through the lower levels of the mark scheme quickly.

When assigning a level you should look at the overall quality of the answer and not look to pick holes in small and specific parts of the answer where the student has not performed quite as well as the rest. If the answer covers different aspects of different levels of the mark scheme you should use a best-fit approach for defining the level and then use the variability of the response to help decide the mark within the level.

Step 2 Determine a mark

Once you have assigned a level you need to decide on the mark.

It is often best to start in the middle of the level's mark range and then check and adjust. If there is a lot of indicative content fully identifiable in the work you need to give the highest mark in the level. If only some is identifiable or it is only partially fulfilled, then give the lower mark.

The exemplar materials used during standardisation will also help. There will be an answer in the standardising materials that will correspond with each level of the mark scheme. This answer will have been awarded a mark by the lead examiner. You can compare the student's answer with the example to determine if it is of the same standard, better or worse than the example. You can then use this to allocate a mark for the answer based on the lead examiner's mark on the example.

You may well need to read back through the answer as you apply the mark scheme to clarify points and assure yourself that the level and the mark are appropriate.

In addition to the levels descriptors, question specific indicative content is provided as a guide for examiners. This is not intended to be exhaustive and you must credit other valid points.

An answer that contains nothing of relevance to the question must be awarded no marks.

Annotating scripts

You should write a summative comment at the end for each Assessment Objective and indicate the marks for each Assessment Objective being tested at the end of the answer in the margin in sequence. It is vital that the way you arrive at a mark should be recorded on the script. This will help you with making accurate judgements and it will help any subsequent markers to identify how you are thinking. Please do not write negative comments about students' work or their alleged aptitudes; this is unprofessional and it impedes a positive marking approach.

Section A: Biopsychology

Total for this section: 30 marks

Question	Part	Marking guidance	Total marks
01		Use your knowledge of localisation of function in the brain to identify the centres or areas of the brain named below.	5
		In each case, match the named area with the appropriate label (A–F) from Figure 1. Shade one box only for each area.	
		1.1 A	
		1.2 C	
		1.3 D	
		1.4 E	
		1.5 B	AO1=5
02		Below is a diagram of a sensory neuron (Figure 2). Name the structures labelled a–d. Write the name of each structure in the box provided.	4
		1 mark for each correctly labelled box as follows:	
		a) Axon	
		b) Myelin sheath	
		c) Cell body	
		d) Nucleus	AO1=4
03		Identify two other types of neuron. Briefly describe the function of each type.	6
		Marks for this question: AO1=6	
		1 mark each for identifying motor neuron and relay (or inter/connecting) neuron.	
		Plus in each case:	
		2 marks for a clear description of the function of the neuron using appropriate terminology.	
		1 mark for a limited/vague/muddled description of the function of the neuron.	
		0 marks for no relevant content.	
		Content:	
		 Motor neuron – connects central nervous system to muscles and glands, transmitting information from the brain/CNS to muscles and glands resulting in action/movement/bodily activity. 	
		 Relay (inter/connecting) neuron – connects neurons to other neurons, are mostly found in the brain and involved in messaging/processing within the brain. 	AO1=6

Question	Part	Marking	guidance		Total marks
04		his mou hands a	ts nervous on the day of his driving test. In the oth is dry and he cannot eat. Just before the tes ore all sticky as he starts to sweat. After the test and tired.	t, his	6
		-	ir knowledge of the autonomic nervous system Amir's experience.	to	
		Possible	e answers include:		
			s experience is due to action of sympathetic and sympathetic sections of the autonomic nervous system	tem.	
			is responsible for Amir's arousal (via fight or flight r e of stress/anxiety.	esponse)	
		mout	pathetic section of ANS a) slows down digestion so h is dry/he cannot eat and b) makes him sweat (dur nalin action).		
		(rest a	sympathetic action of the ANS restores function to a and digest) when the threat/anxiety has passed, so hungry and tired.		
		Level	Description	Marks	
		3	Knowledge of the ANS is clear and application is effective. The answer is clear with appropriate use of terminology.	6–5	
		2	Some knowledge of the ANS is present and there is some appropriate application. The answer lacks clarity/use of terminology in places.	4–3	
		1	Knowledge of the ANS is limited or very limited. Application is either inappropriate or absent. The answer is vague/muddled.	2–1	
		0	No creditable content.		AO2=6

Question	Part	Marking	guidance		Total marks		
05		Describ	e split brain research.		9		
		Conten	t:				
		(hem callos	ed out with epilepsy patients whose left and right signs is pheres) are surgically separated (by cutting the consum), which stops communication between left and soft brain.	orpus			
		•	ry showed patients separate images to their left and I field.	l right			
		side	mation from left visual field is normally processed by of the brain and information from the right visual fiel ally processed by the left side of the brain.	-			
		in the	ry found patients could not use language (normally e left brain) to name/describe an object shown to the I field.				
			• Even though patients could not name objects presented to left visual field they could identify them by touch.				
		• In mo	 In most other ways patients' behaviour appeared normal. 				
		-	ry showed the effects of disrupting the normal shari nation between left and right hemispheres.	ng of			
		Credit o	ther relevant aspects of procedure and findings.				
		Level	Description	Marks			
		3	Knowledge of split brain research is accurate and detailed. The answer is clear and organised. There is some effective use of specialist terminology.	9–7			
		2	Knowledge of split brain research is evident but there are occasional inaccuracies/omissions. The answer lacks clarity and organisation in places. There is some appropriate use of specialist terminology.	6–4			
		1	Knowledge split brain research is either limited or very limited. The answer lacks clarity and is poorly organised. Specialist terminology is either absent or inappropriately used.	3–1			
		0	No creditable content.		AO1=9		

Section B: Development

Total for this	section:	30	marks
----------------	----------	----	-------

Question	Part	Marking	j guidance		Total marks		
06			the procedure involved in the Sally-Anne stud of mind.	ies of	4		
		Conten	t:				
		• They					
		They					
		They	They see Anne take the marble and put it in a box. They see Sally come back.				
		Child	Children are then asked 'Where will Sally look for the marble?'				
		Level Description Marks					
		2	Outline of procedure is clear and detailed.	4–3			
		1	Outline of procedure is limited/vague/muddled.	2–1			
		0	No creditable content.		AO1=4		
		given th the pro by an o	ding. She used two groups of children. All child ne same problem to solve. Each child in Group blem alone. Each child in Group B was given s Ider child as they solved the problem.	A solved caffolding			
		Interpre answer	et the findings in Table 1. Refer to scaffolding in	n your			
		Interpre	etation and application:				
			e shows that children in Group A find the problem i er than those in Group B (or vice versa).	nuch			
			ly all the children in Group A answer incorrectly wh of those in Group B answer correctly.	nereas			
		-	es suggest that scaffolding has a beneficial effect em-solving.	on			
			Iren in Group B benefit from the assistance of their /ledgeable peers.	more			
		indica	Scaffolding techniques such as preparation, demonstration, indication, verbal prompting etc have helped the children in Group B.				
		Level	Description	Marks			
		3	Interpretation and application are detailed and appropriate. The answer is clear.	6–5			
		2	There is some appropriate interpretation but application in relation to scaffolding is limited.	4–3			

Question	Part	Marking guidance	Total marks
07		1Interpretation is very limited. There is little or no relevant application to scaffolding. The answer is vague/muddled.2–1	AO3=2
		0 No creditable content.	A03=2 A02=4
08		Fatima is a teacher. In some lessons she gives the children practical problems to solve and encourages the children to find out the answers for themselves. She thinks that young children can sometimes learn better that way.	20
		Describe and evaluate Piaget's theory of cognitive development. Briefly refer to Fatima's lessons in your answer.	
		Content:	
		 Piaget's theory – innate cognitive structures developed through experience. 	
		 Piaget's concepts related to schema development – assimilation, accommodation, adaptation. 	
		 Piaget's stages: sensorimotor, pre-operational, concrete operational, formal operational. 	
		 Characteristics of the stages: object permanence, egocentrism, conservation. 	
		 Piaget's views on importance of discovery learning – child as scientist, 'action on the world'. 	
		 Knowledge of Piaget's research, eg conservation experiment, 3 mountains experiment. 	
		Application:	
		Fatima expects children to learn through discovery learning.	
		 She gives children the materials and waits for them to come up with their own answer rather than telling them the answer. 	
		Evaluation:	
		 Criticism of stages as too fixed/rigid. 	
		 Piaget underestimated children's abilities because he assumed lack of performance was the same as lack of ability. 	
		• Piaget's studies were artificial and so children did not understand what they were expected to do, eg conservation studies he asked the same question twice.	
		 Use of evidence to support/contradict the theory eg alternative findings. 	
		Comparison with other theories.	
		 Importance of Piaget's work – effect on other theorists and effect on educational practice. 	
		Credit other relevant content.	

Question	Part	Marking		Total marks	
08		Level	Description	Marks	
		4	Knowledge of Piaget's theory is mostly accurate and generally well detailed. Evaluation is mostly effective. Application is appropriate. Minor detail and/or expansion of argument is sometimes lacking. The answer is clear and focused. Specialist terminology is mostly used effectively.	20–16	
		3	Knowledge of Piaget's theory is evident but there are occasional inaccuracies/omissions. There is some effective evaluation. There is some attempt at application. The answer is mostly clear and organised but occasionally lacks focus. Specialist terminology is mostly used appropriately.	15–11	
		2	Limited knowledge of Piaget's theory is present. Any evaluation/application is of limited effectiveness. The answer lacks clarity, accuracy and organisation. Specialist terminology is occasionally used appropriately.	10–6	
		1	Knowledge of Piaget's theory is very limited. Evaluation/application is limited, poorly focused or absent. The answer as a whole lacks clarity, has many inaccuracies and is poorly organised. Specialist terminology is either absent or inappropriately used.	5–1	AO3=10
		0	No creditable content.		AO2=2 AO1=8

Section C: Research methods 1

Total for this section: 30 marks

Question	Part	Marking guidance	Total marks	
09		Calculate the mean language ability score and the range for boys. Show your workings.	4	
		In each case, award marks as follows:		
	2 marks for correctly calculated mean/range			
		1 mark if the answer is incorrect but there are some appropriate calculations eg		
		For the mean: scores are added correctly or if an incorrect total is divided correctly.		
		For the range: some appropriate procedure eg figures show highest score minus lowest score but result is wrong.		
		Boys' mean = 55.5		
		Boys' range = 54(86–32)	AO2=4	

Question	Part	Marking	j guidance		Total marks
10			why the psychologist chose to calculate the m in this study rather than just consider the indiv		4
		Conten	t:		
			ing at individual language scores does not inform a all pattern or effect.	about an	
		langu	n (measure of central tendency or average) describ uage performance of each group and enables sens parisons about language ability between the two gr	ible	
		sprea	ges show how much the language scores within a g ad out, enabling psychologist to see variability in pe n each group		
		These c conclus ability a each gr			
		Level	Description	Marks	
		2	Explanation is clear and detailed with appropriate reference to the usefulness and purposes of the means and ranges in this case. The answer is clear with appropriate use of terminology.	4–3	
		1	Explanation of the usefulness of the means/ranges is limited, vague or muddled. The answer lacks clarity. A clear detailed answer focussing on just the mean or just the range can score up to 2 marks.	2–1	
		0	No creditable content.		AO2=4
11		What is	the independent variable (IV) in this study?		1
		Answer = C (Sex of participant).			AO2=1
12		What is this stu	the operationalised dependent variable (DV) in dy		1
		Answer	= B (Language test score).		AO2=1

Question	Part	Marking	guidance		Total marks
13		The children's own teacher selected them to take part in the study. Explain one problem with selecting the children in this way.			4
		Possibl	e content includes:		
		• Teacher may have been biased so the results would be affected.			
	 Teacher may have chosen the children according to what he or she expected, eg clever girls and less able boys. 				
			means the results are less valid, ie do not show a r ence in boys' and girls' ability.	real	
	This means that the results/findings cannot be generalised.				
		Level	Description	Marks	
		2	A relevant problem is explained in some detail. The answer is clear with appropriate use of terminology.	4–3	
		1	Explanation of a problem is limited, vague or muddled. The answer lacks clarity.	2–1	
		0	No creditable content.		AO3=4
14		Explain in this s	how the psychologist could have used randon study.	n sampling	4
		Possibl	e content includes:		
		Each	boy/girl in the school is given/assigned a number.		
			umbers are selected at random (either from a hat o om number generating system on a computer/calcu		
		Same	e procedure is followed for the girls/boys.		
		 So, a take 	II children have an equal chance of being chosen t part.	0	
	Credit other procedures that would result in a random sample.				
		Level	Description	Marks	
		2	A way of achieving a random sample of boys and a random sample of girls is explained in some detail. The answer is clear with appropriate use of terminology.	4–3	
		1	The explanation of a way of achieving a random sample is limited, vague or muddled. The answer lacks clarity.	2–1	
		0	No creditable content.		AO2=4

Question	Part	Marking	g guidance		Total marks
15		-	n two ethical issues that the psychologist shoul ered in this study.	d have	6
		Possibl	le ethical issues include:		
		parei the p	sent – it would be necessary to gain informed consents (and the children themselves); informed conservarents would have to be told the children will be taluage ability test and why.	nt means	
		s not to teacher			
		Level	Description	Marks	
		3	Explanation is detailed and appropriately applied to the study. The answer is clear with appropriate use of terminology.	3	
		2	Explanation is relevant to the study but detail/application is lacking. The answer lacks clarity in places.	2	
		1	Explanation is limited, vague or muddled.	1	
		0	No creditable content.		AO2=6

Question	Part	Marking guidance			Total marks
16		The psychologist decided to carry out an unstructured interview with one of the boys, who scored very highly on the test.			6
		Discuss how carrying out an unstructured interview might lead to useful additional information in this case.			
		Possible discussion/application:			
		The test score alone reveals only current language ability.			
		 An unstructured interview would allow the psychologist to find out possible reasons for the high language test score. 			
		• The interviewer can pursue any interesting issues that arise eg if the boy mentions his parents.			
		• Follow-up questions can be used, for example, to find out about the boy's family circumstances.			
		• For example, the boy may live in a house where there are lots of books etc.			
		Credit other relevant points.			
		Level	Description	Marks	
		3	Discussion is detailed and application to the scenario is appropriate. The answer is clear.	6–5	
		2	There is some appropriate discussion and/or application but detail is lacking. The answer lacks clarity in places.	4–3	
		1	Discussion/application is very limited. The answer is vague/muddled.	2–1	
		0	No creditable content.		AO3=2 AO2=4

GET HELP AND SUPPORT

Visit our website for information, guidance, support and resources at oxfordaqaexams.org.uk

You can contact the psychology team directly;

E: psychology@oxfordaqaexams.org.uk

OXFORD

INTERNATIONAL AQA EXAMINATIONS

OXFORD INTERNATIONAL AQA EXAMINATIONS LINACRE HOUSE, JORDAN HILL, OXFORD, OX2 8TA UNITED KINGDOM

> enquiries@oxfordaqaexams.org.uk oxfordaqaexams.org.uk

Permission to reproduce all copyright material has been applied for. In some cases, efforts to contact copyright-holders may have been unsuccessful and Oxford International AQA Examinations will be happy to rectify any omissions of acknowledgements. If you have any queries please contact the Copyright Team, AQA, Stag Hill House, Guildford, GU2 7XJ.