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Cambridge Assessment International Education

Cambridge International AS & A Level

CANDIDATE NAME

CENTRE NUMBER

CANDIDATE NUMBER

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PSYCHOLOGY **9990/12**

Paper 1 Approaches, Issues and Debates **February/March 2025**

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 **12** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

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Section A

Answer **all** questions.

1 In the study by Perry et al. (personal space), there were four types of 'approaching figure'. One of these figures was a friend.

(a) Identify **one** other 'approaching figure'.

..... [1]

(b) Outline what is meant by the term 'empathy'.

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..... [2]

(c) Outline **one** conclusion from this study.

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..... [2]

2 In the study by Hölzel et al. (mindfulness and brain scans), some participants took part in formal mindfulness training. This included yoga, meditation and body scan.

(a) Outline what happened during the 'body scan' part of the training in this study.

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(b) Explain **one** weakness of this study.

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3 From the study by Dement and Kleitman (sleep and dreams):

(a) One aim was to investigate whether eye movement patterns were related to the content of dreams.

Outline **one** other aim of this study.

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..... [2]

(b) One feature of the sample was that there were nine participants.

Identify **two** other features of this sample.

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[2]

(c) Suggest **one** application to everyday life using evidence from this study. Your suggestion **must** be ethical.

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4 In the study by Pozzulo et al. (line-ups), the participants were adults and children.

Describe **one** result from the children in the target-absent line-ups. You **must** use data in your answer.

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..... [3]

5 **(a)** Outline **one** assumption of the cognitive approach.

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(b) Explain how the study by Baron-Cohen et al. (eyes test) supports the assumption you outlined in part **(a)**.

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6 **(a)** Outline what is meant by the term 'shaping'. Include an example from the study by Fagen et al. (elephant learning) in your answer.

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..... [3]

(b) Two friends, Tenzin and Ambar, are discussing the ethics of the study by Fagen et al. (elephant learning).

Tenzin says the study is ethical, but Ambar says it is **not** ethical.

Outline why you think **either** Tenzin **or** Ambar is correct, using evidence from this study.

The friend who I think is correct is: .....

because: .....

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[4]

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7 From the study by Andrade (doodling):

Describe the procedure for a participant who was in the doodling condition.

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..... [5]

8 Your friend, Aditi, has read a newspaper story about a person on a bus who collapsed but did not receive help from other bus passengers. The story did not contain any information about the characteristics of the victim. Aditi says that she cannot understand why the other passengers did not help the person who had collapsed.

Suggest to Aditi why the other passengers did not help, using your knowledge of the study by Piliavin et al. (subway Samaritans).

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Section B

Answer **all** questions.

9 **(a)** Describe the sample used in the study by Hassett et al. (monkey toy preferences).

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..... [4]

(b) Explain **one** similarity and **one** difference between the study by Hassett et al. (monkey toy preferences) and **one** other study from the biological approach. Do **not** refer to the sample.

Similarity .....

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Difference .....

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[8]

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10 Evaluate the study by Bandura et al. (aggression) in terms of **two** strengths and **two** weaknesses. At least one of your evaluation points **must** be about generalisations from the sample.

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