GradeMax

Cambridge Assessment International Education

Cambridge International AS & A Level

PSYCHOLOGY **9990/32**

Paper 3 Specialist Options: Approaches, Issues and Debates **October/November 2025**

1 hour 30 minutes

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You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **eight** questions in total.
  - Answer questions from **two** options.
  - Answer **all** questions from the options you have studied.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

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 **8** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

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Answer questions from **two** options.
Answer **all** questions from the options you have studied.

Section A: Clinical Psychology

Answer **all** questions.

1 Halema has been having depressed moods. Her psychiatrist thinks Halema has either depressive disorder (unipolar) or bipolar disorder.

Suggest **two** differences that may be seen in Halema's behaviour that would help distinguish between depressive disorder (unipolar) and bipolar disorder. [4]

2 **(a)** Outline learned helplessness as an explanation of depressive disorder. [2]

(b) Explain how the learned helplessness explanation of depressive disorder is an individual explanation. [2]

3 Blake has schizophrenia. His psychiatrist suggests treating him with atypical antipsychotics rather than typical antipsychotics.

(a) Suggest **two** reasons why atypical antipsychotics could be a suitable treatment for Blake. [4]

(b) Explain **one** weakness of using antipsychotics to treat schizophrenia. [2]

4 **(a)** Describe the following treatments for anxiety disorders and fear-related disorders:
- cognitive-behavioural therapy (CBT), and
- applied tension focusing on treating blood/injection/injury phobia. [6]

(b) Evaluate the following treatments for anxiety disorders and fear-related disorders:
- cognitive-behavioural therapy (CBT), and
- applied tension focusing on treating blood/injection/injury phobia,

including a discussion of generalisations.

Evaluation in your answer can include strengths, weaknesses and a discussion of issues and debates. [10]

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Section B: Consumer Psychology

Answer **all** questions.

5 Clive is the manager of a shopping mall. He is aware of the pleasure-arousal-dominance (PAD) model. Clive wants to use a pleasant odour in the mall.

Suggest **two** effects this pleasant odour could have on shoppers. [4]

6 **(a)** Outline the nomothetic approach, including an example from the effect of sound on consumer behaviour. [2]

(b) Explain **one** strength of using a nomothetic approach in psychology. [2]

7 Nandi is a chef in a local restaurant. She is designing a menu and knows that food names can affect customers' menu item choice.

(a) Suggest how Nandi could use her knowledge about food names when designing a menu for her restaurant. [4]

(b) Explain **one** problem with carrying out research into the effect of food names on menu item choice. [2]

8 **(a)** Describe explanations and examples of compensatory, non-compensatory and partially compensatory strategies of consumer decision-making. [6]

(b) Evaluate explanations and examples of compensatory, non-compensatory and partially compensatory strategies of consumer decision-making, including a discussion of application to everyday life.

Evaluation in your answer can include strengths, weaknesses and a discussion of issues and debates. [10]

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Section C: Health Psychology

Answer **all** questions.

9 Dr Jones knows that some of his adult patients do not take their medication every day. He wants to improve daily adherence in his patients.

Suggest **two** ways that Dr Jones could use prompts to improve daily adherence to medication in his patients. [4]

10 **(a)** Outline what is meant by the determinism versus free-will debate. [2]

(b) Explain why free-will is important for **one** way to manage stress. [2]

11 Lydia has recently started a new job. She is also helping a sick relative at home. Lydia is irritable, anxious and often very tired. Lydia thinks these symptoms may be due to stress.

(a) Suggest how the GAS model can explain the symptoms Lydia is experiencing. [4]

(b) Explain **one** weakness of the GAS model. [2]

12 **(a)** Describe the following types and theories of pain:
- types of pain: acute, chronic and phantom limb pain, and
- gate control theory of pain. [6]

(b) Evaluate the following types and theories of pain:
- types of pain: acute, chronic and phantom limb pain, and
- gate control theory of pain,

including a discussion of nature versus nurture.

Evaluation in your answer can include strengths, weaknesses and a discussion of issues and debates. [10]

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Section D: Organisational Psychology

Answer **all** questions.

13 A mobile phone company has a large number of workers in a noisy open plan office. They are moving to a new building with a different office layout. The new building has an office for each worker separated by internal walls.

Suggest **two** effects on the workers of working in the new building, compared to the open plan office. [4]

14 **(a)** Outline the reductionism versus holism debate. [2]

(b) Explain **one** strength of taking a holistic approach when investigating the effects of shiftwork on health and accidents. [2]

15 Ingrid is the headteacher in a large school. She would like to measure the job satisfaction of all the workers at the school, including teachers and other workers. She has decided to use the job descriptive index (JDI).

(a) Suggest **two** reasons why the JDI is an appropriate measure of job satisfaction of all the workers at Ingrid's school. [4]

(b) Explain **one** weakness of the JDI. [2]

16 **(a)** Describe the study by Claypoole and Szalma (2019) on concentration levels when being monitored using Electronic Performance Monitoring (EPM). [6]

(b) Evaluate the study by Claypoole and Szalma (2019), including a discussion of controls.

Evaluation in your answer can include strengths, weaknesses and a discussion of issues and debates. [10]

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