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CAMBRIDGE
International Education

Cambridge International AS & A Level

CANDIDATE NAME

CENTRE NUMBER

CANDIDATE NUMBER

3352160414

PSYCHOLOGY **9990/22**

Paper 2 Research Methods **February/March 2026**

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. Do **not** use correction fluid or tape.
- 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 The mode is a measure of central tendency.

(a) State the mode for the set of results in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1

total score	7	6	3	4	5	6	8	2

.....

..... [1]

(b) Explain why the mode is a measure of central tendency.

.....

..... [1]

2 In the study by Piliavin et al. (subway Samaritans), the researchers intended that the experimental design would be an independent measures design.

(a) Outline what is meant by an 'independent measures design'.

.....

..... [1]

(b) Explain **one** reason why the experimental design in this study may **not** have been an independent measures design.

.....

..... [1]

3 The study by Fagen et al. (elephant learning) used captive elephants as participants. Elephants are very large animals and require ethical and practical considerations.

Suggest **two** ways that the size of the elephants might have affected the study.

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..... [2]

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4 In the study by Dement and Kleitman (sleep and dreams), the researchers studied a small number of participants.

(a) Some of the participants were sleep researchers and members of their families. State the sampling technique used for these participants.

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..... [1]

(b) Explain **two** weaknesses of the sample used.

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2 .....

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[4]

5 Jürgen tested participants' memories in a room at his university early in the morning. Some participants said that they were hungry and some said they were not. When some participants were tested, there was a loud noise from building work happening in the next room.

(a) Describe what is meant by a 'participant variable', including an example from Jürgen's study.

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..... [2]

(b) Describe what is meant by a 'situational variable', including an example from Jürgen's study.

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..... [2]

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6 Describe how independent variables (IVs) can be operationalised, using any example(s).

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..... [6]

7 Chun is observing the non-verbal behaviours of people on the street, for example, nodding when people pass each other. She will record the frequency of these behaviours using a behavioural checklist.

(a) Chun's behavioural checklist will include nodding and **two** other behaviours.

(i) Suggest **two** categories other than nodding that Chun could record to investigate the frequency of different non-verbal behaviours seen in the street. Do **not** include verbal behaviours in your answer.

1 .....

.....

2 .....

.....

[2]

(ii) For **one** of the categories you have suggested in **7(a)(i)**:

Explain **one** reason observing that category would be valid.

.....

..... [1]

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(iii) For **one** of the categories you have suggested in **7(a)(i)**:

Explain **one** reason observing that category may **not** be valid.

.....

..... [1]

(b) The behavioural checklist will be a table for collecting data.

Draw a table that Chun could use in the space below.

[3]

(c) Explain how **two** ethical guidelines are relevant to Chun's study.

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8 Helen has conducted an experiment to test the ability of three-year-old and five-year-old children to identify two different types of face: 'aggressive' faces and 'non-aggressive' faces. There were 40 children in each age group.

(a) The aggressive faces and non-aggressive faces that Helen used were similar.

(i) Suggest **two** features of the faces that Helen should have ensured were similar.

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..... [2]

(ii) For **one** of the features that you suggested in **8(a)(i)**:

Explain why it was important for that feature to be similar.

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..... [2]

(b) Helen's results are shown in Figure 8.1.

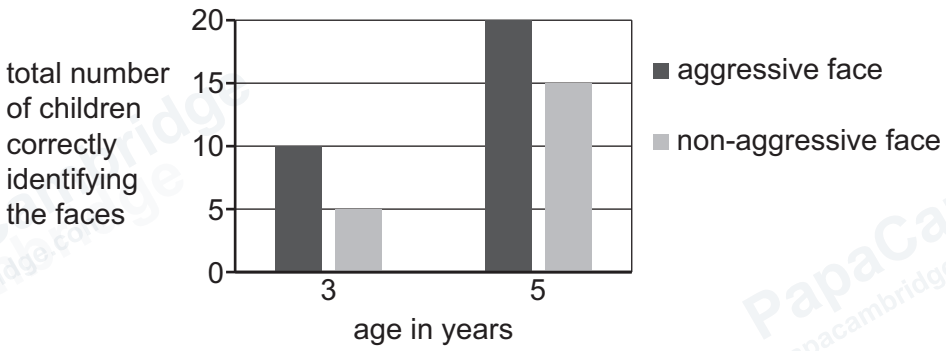

Figure 8.1

Draw **one** conclusion from Helen's results.

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9 Sundar is planning a longitudinal study. He aims to investigate changes in attention from late childhood to adulthood.

(a) Sundar plans to recruit children who are 15 years old and study them until they are 30 years old.

(i) Describe **one** way that Sundar could recruit a representative sample from his local school.

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..... [2]

(ii) Suggest **one** reason why Sundar should recruit his sample from more than one school. Your answer **must** relate to Sundar's aim.

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..... [2]

(b) Sundar will need to recontact his participants during the study to retest them.

(i) Suggest a suitable time interval for Sundar to retest his participants. Justify your answer.

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..... [2]

(ii) Suggest **two** problems that Sundar may have when recontacting his participants.

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..... [2]

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Section B

Answer **all** questions.

10 Chris is aware that his friends vary in terms of how much they enjoy spending time with other people. He is also aware of a variation in his friends' reading habits: some read more books than others.

(a) Describe how Chris could conduct a correlational study to investigate the relationship between enjoying spending time with other people and reading habits.

Do **not** describe sample / sampling technique or ethical issues/guidelines in your answer.

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..... [10]

(b) For **one** part of the procedure you described in **10(a)**:

(i) Describe **one** practical/methodological strength of this part of the procedure.

Do **not** refer to sampling or ethics in your answer.

.....

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..... [2]

(ii) Describe **one** practical/methodological weakness of this part of the procedure.

Do **not** refer to sampling or ethics in your answer.

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