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CAMBRIDGE
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 **May/June 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 In the study by Hassett et al. (monkey toy preferences), there were two categories of toy used. One category was labelled 'wheeled'.

(a) Name the other category of toy used.

..... [1]

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

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..... [2]

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

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..... [2]

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2 The sample in the study by Dement and Kleitman (sleep and dreams) consisted of adults.

(a) Identify **three** features of the sample, other than that it consisted of adults.

1 .....

2 .....

3 .....

[3]

(b) Explain **one** weakness of the sample.

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..... [2]

3 A local business wants to introduce ways to get employees to follow important safety rules in the workplace.

Suggest what the local business could introduce, using your knowledge of the study by Milgram (obedience). Your suggestion(s) **must** be ethical.

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4 **(a)** Outline **one** assumption of the cognitive approach, including an example from the study by Baron-Cohen et al. (eyes test).

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..... [3]

(b) Outline **one** methodological strength of the study by Baron-Cohen et al. (eyes test).

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..... [2]

5 Suggest **two** applications to everyday life of the study by Fagen et al. (elephant learning). Your suggestions **must** be ethical.

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suggestion 2 .....

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[4]

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6 From the study by Saavedra and Silverman (button phobia):

(a) Explain whether each ethical guideline below was broken:

(i) consent

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..... [2]

(ii) minimising harm.

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..... [2]

(b) Explain how the ethical guideline of confidentiality was followed.

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..... [2]

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7 The debate about individual and situational explanations relates to the study by Pozzulo et al. (line-ups).

Outline what is meant by this debate, including **one** example of the individual explanation and **one** example of the situational explanation.

Both examples **must** be from the study by Pozzulo et al. (line-ups).

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8 Describe the background to the study by Andrade (doodling).

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Section B

Answer **all** questions.

9 **(a)** In the study by Hölzel et al. (mindfulness and brain scans), participants were brain scanned.

Describe how and how often the participants were brain scanned.

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(b) Explain **one** similarity and **one** difference between the study by Hölzel et al. (mindfulness and brain scans) and the study by Dement and Kleitman (sleep and dreams). Do **not** refer to the sample in your answer.

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difference .....

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[8]

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10 Evaluate the study by Piliavin et al. (subway Samaritans) in terms of **two** strengths and **two** weaknesses. At least one of your evaluation points **must** be about quantitative data.

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