Please check the examination details below before entering your candidate information

Candidate surname	Other names

Centre Number | Candidate Number

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level

Tuesday 20 January 2026

Afternoon (Time: 2 hours)

Paper reference **WPS02/01**

Psychology

International Advanced Subsidiary
UNIT 2: Biological Psychology, Learning Theories and Development

You do not need any other materials.

Total Marks

Instructions

- Use **black** ink or ball-point pen.
- **Fill in the boxes** at the top of this page with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- Answer **all** questions.
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided – *there may be more space than you need.*

Information

- The total mark for this paper is 96.
- The marks for **each** question are shown in brackets – *use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.*
- The list of formulae and statistical value tables are printed at the start of this paper.
- Candidates may use a calculator.

Advice

- Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
- Try to answer every question.
- Check your answers if you have time at the end.

Turn over ▶

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FORMULAE AND STATISTICAL TABLES

Standard deviation (sample estimate)

$$\sqrt{\left(\frac{\sum(x-\bar{x})^2}{n-1}\right)}$$

Spearman's rank correlation coefficient

$$1-\frac{6\sum d^2}{n(n^2-1)}$$

Critical values for Spearman's rank

	Level of significance for a one-tailed test				
	0.05	**0.025**	**0.01**	**0.005**	**0.0025**
	Level of significance for a two-tailed test				
N	**0.10**	**0.05**	**0.025**	**0.01**	**0.005**
5	0.900	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
6	0.829	0.886	0.943	1.000	1.000
7	0.714	0.786	0.893	0.929	0.964
8	0.643	0.738	0.833	0.881	0.905
9	0.600	0.700	0.783	0.833	0.867
10	0.564	0.648	0.745	0.794	0.830
11	0.536	0.618	0.709	0.755	0.800
12	0.503	0.587	0.678	0.727	0.769
13	0.484	0.560	0.648	0.703	0.747
14	0.464	0.538	0.626	0.679	0.723
15	0.446	0.521	0.604	0.654	0.700
16	0.429	0.503	0.582	0.635	0.679
17	0.414	0.485	0.566	0.615	0.662
18	0.401	0.472	0.550	0.600	0.643
19	0.391	0.460	0.535	0.584	0.628
20	0.380	0.447	0.520	0.570	0.612
21	0.370	0.435	0.508	0.556	0.599
22	0.361	0.425	0.496	0.544	0.586
23	0.353	0.415	0.486	0.532	0.573
24	0.344	0.406	0.476	0.521	0.562
25	0.337	0.398	0.466	0.511	0.551
26	0.331	0.390	0.457	0.501	0.541
27	0.324	0.382	0.448	0.491	0.531
28	0.317	0.375	0.440	0.483	0.522
29	0.312	0.368	0.433	0.475	0.513
30	0.306	0.362	0.425	0.467	0.504

The calculated value must be equal to or exceed the critical value in this table for significance to be shown.

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Chi-squared distribution formula

$$X^2 = \sum \frac{(O-E)^2}{E} \qquad df = (r-1)(c-1)$$

Critical values for chi-squared distribution

	Level of significance for a one-tailed test					
	0.10	**0.05**	**0.025**	**0.01**	**0.005**	**0.0005**
	Level of significance for a two-tailed test					
df	**0.20**	**0.10**	**0.05**	**0.025**	**0.01**	**0.001**
1	1.64	2.71	3.84	5.02	6.64	10.83
2	3.22	4.61	5.99	7.38	9.21	13.82
3	4.64	6.25	7.82	9.35	11.35	16.27
4	5.99	7.78	9.49	11.14	13.28	18.47
5	7.29	9.24	11.07	12.83	15.09	20.52
6	8.56	10.65	12.59	14.45	16.81	22.46
7	9.80	12.02	14.07	16.01	18.48	24.32
8	11.03	13.36	15.51	17.54	20.09	26.12
9	12.24	14.68	16.92	19.02	21.67	27.88
10	13.44	15.99	18.31	20.48	23.21	29.59
11	14.63	17.28	19.68	21.92	24.73	31.26
12	15.81	18.55	21.03	23.34	26.22	32.91
13	16.99	19.81	22.36	24.74	27.69	34.53
14	18.15	21.06	23.69	26.12	29.14	36.12
15	19.31	22.31	25.00	27.49	30.58	37.70
16	20.47	23.54	26.30	28.85	32.00	39.25
17	21.62	24.77	27.59	30.19	33.41	40.79
18	22.76	25.99	28.87	31.53	34.81	42.31
19	23.90	27.20	30.14	32.85	36.19	43.82
20	25.04	28.41	31.41	34.17	37.57	45.32
21	26.17	29.62	32.67	35.48	38.93	46.80
22	27.30	30.81	33.92	36.78	40.29	48.27
23	28.43	32.01	35.17	38.08	41.64	49.73
24	29.55	33.20	36.42	39.36	42.98	51.18
25	30.68	34.38	37.65	40.65	44.31	52.62
26	31.80	35.56	38.89	41.92	45.64	54.05
27	32.91	36.74	40.11	43.20	46.96	55.48
28	34.03	37.92	41.34	44.46	48.28	56.89
29	35.14	39.09	42.56	45.72	49.59	58.30
30	36.25	40.26	43.77	46.98	50.89	59.70
40	47.27	51.81	55.76	59.34	63.69	73.40
50	58.16	63.17	67.51	71.42	76.15	86.66
60	68.97	74.40	79.08	83.30	88.38	99.61
70	79.72	85.53	90.53	95.02	100.43	112.32

The calculated value must be equal to or exceed the critical value in this table for significance to be shown.

Wilcoxon Signed Ranks test process

- Calculate the difference between two scores by taking one from the other
- Rank the differences giving the smallest difference Rank 1

  Note: do not rank any differences of 0 and when adding the number of scores, do not count those with a difference of 0, and ignore the signs when calculating the difference
- Add up the ranks for positive differences
- Add up the ranks for negative differences
- T is the figure that is the smallest when the ranks are totalled (may be positive or negative)
- N is the number of scores left, ignore those with 0 difference

Critical values for the Wilcoxon Signed Ranks test

	Level of significance for a one-tailed test		
	0.05	0.025	0.01
	Level of significance for a two-tailed test		
n	0.1	0.05	0.02
N=5	0	-	-
6	2	0	-
7	3	2	0
8	5	3	1
9	8	5	3
10	11	8	5
11	13	10	7
12	17	13	9

The calculated value must be equal to or less than the critical value in this table for significance to be shown.

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QUESTION 1 BEGINS ON THE NEXT PAGE.

SECTION A

Biological Psychology

Answer ALL questions in this section. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

1 In your studies of biological psychology, you will have learned about the structure of the neuron.

(a) Name the parts of the neuron labelled **A, B** and **C** in **Figure 1**.

(3)

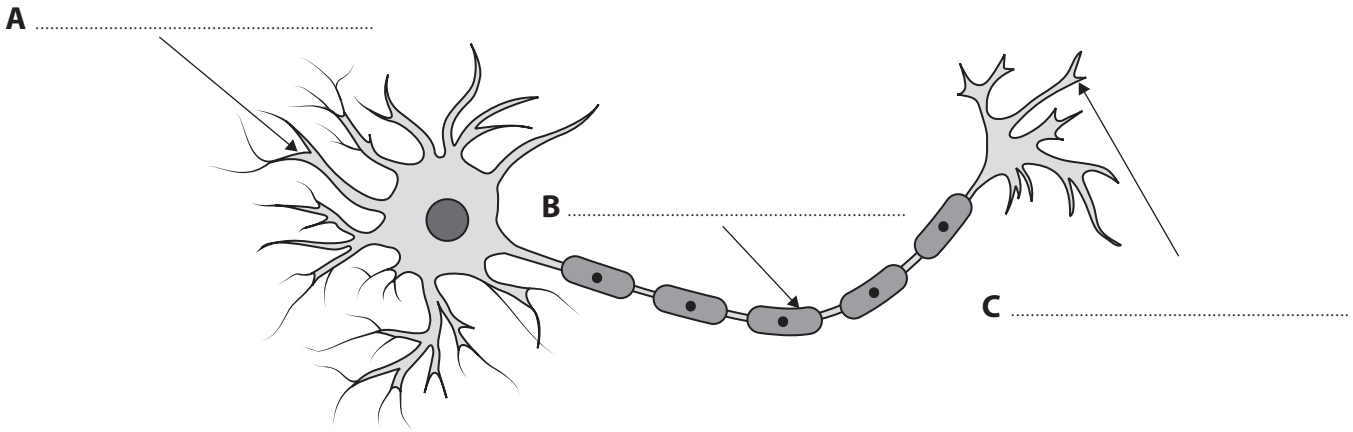


Figure 1

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(b) Describe the role of the neuron in human behaviour.

(2)

(c) Explain **one** weakness of the role of the neuron as an explanation of human behaviour.

(2)

(Total for Question 1 = 7 marks)

2 Faryal conducted a questionnaire to see if there was a relationship between the number of hours in a day spent on social media and the number of aggressive acts in a week. She gathered her participants from a local internet cafe on a Saturday morning.

Faryal asked her participants to answer a question on how long they spent on social media a day. The participants also had to answer a question on how many aggressive acts they did in a week.

(a) Describe the sampling technique Faryal used to gather her participants.

(2)

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(b) Faryal used a Spearman's rank test to analyse her data.

State **two** reasons why Faryal used a Spearman's rank test on her data.

(2)

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(c) Calculate the Spearman's rank correlation coefficient for the data gathered by Faryal by completing **Table 1**.

Your answers must be to **three** decimal places.

The formulae and statistical tables can be found at the front of the paper.
You **must** show your working out.

(4)

Number of hours in a day spent on social media	Rank 1	Number of aggressive acts in a week	Rank 2	d	d^2
2	2	0	1.5		
6	5	4	5		
3	3	3	4		
1	1	0	1.5		
4	4	2	3		
				Total for d^2	

Table 1

Space for calculations

Spearman's rank .....

(d) Explain **one** improvement Faryal could make to her investigation.

(2)

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(Total for Question 2 = 10 marks)

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3 Jin has trouble going to sleep. He works during the night, between 8 pm and 5 am. Jin tries to go to sleep at 7 am when he has returned home. Jin often finds that he cannot go to sleep. When Jin thinks he will be awake for a while he will go on his mobile phone for an hour and then tries to go to sleep.

(a) Explain **one** reason why Jin may be finding it hard to go to sleep at 7 am.

(2)

(b) Explain **one** way Jin could use external zeitgebers to improve his sleep at 7 am after returning home.

(2)

(Total for Question 3 = 4 marks)

4 (a) Identify **one** hormone that is involved in aggression.

(1)

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(b) Explain **two** strengths of the role of hormones as an explanation of aggression.

(4)

1 .....

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2 .....

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(Total for Question 4 = 5 marks)

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5 Darta conducted an investigation into the effects of different images on brain activity in different areas of the brain. Darta showed her 20 participants 30 different images, one image at a time. 15 of the images were of cute baby animals. The other 15 images were of adult animals hunting their prey. She waited for 12 seconds between each image when the participants saw nothing.

Darta used an fMRI scanning technique to measure the brain activity of her participants. She ensured all her participants removed any metal objects before they entered the fMRI scanner.

Discuss the fMRI brain scanning technique in relation to Darta's investigation.

You **must** make reference to the context in your answer.

(8)

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(Total for Question 5 = 8 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION A = 34 MARKS

SECTION B

Learning Theories and Development

Answer ALL questions in this section. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

6 In your studies of learning theories you will have learned about classical conditioning.

(a) Describe, using an example, what is meant by the term 'stimulus generalisation' as used in classical conditioning.

(2)

(b) Explain **one** weakness of classical conditioning.

(2)

(Total for Question 6 = 4 marks)

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7 Diego conducted an overt observation to see whether eight-year-old girls and boys would help each other when completing some mathematical puzzles.

Diego had a group of six girls at one table and a group of six boys at another table. Each child was given the same set of mathematical puzzles. The children were told that they had to try and complete the puzzles on their own but they could help each other if they wanted to. There was a prize for the first girl and a prize for the first boy who accurately completed all the puzzles whether they helped each other or not.

(a) Describe how Diego could have used event sampling to gather his data.

(2)

Diego's results are shown in **Table 2**.

	Number of times a child helped another child	Number of times a child did not help another child
Girls	12	2
Boys	9	10

Table 2

(b) Calculate the percentage of times a child was helped by a girl out of the total number of times a child was helped.

You **must** express your answer as a whole number.

(1)

Space for calculations

Percentage of times a child was helped by a girl .....

(c) Calculate the ratio of the number of times a child was not helped by a girl to the number of times a child was not helped by a boy.

You **must** express the ratio in its lowest form.

(1)

Space for calculations

Ratio .....

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(d) Explain **one** conclusion Diego could make using the data in **Table 2**.

(2)

(e) Diego collected quantitative data for his observation.

Explain **one** reason why Diego collected quantitative data.

(2)

(Total for Question 7 = 8 marks)

8 In your studies of learning theories and development, you will have learned about systematic desensitisation as a therapy/treatment.

(a) Describe systematic desensitisation as a therapy/treatment.

(4)

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(b) Explain **one** strength and **one** weakness of systematic desensitisation as a therapy/treatment.

(4)

Strength

Weakness

(Total for Question 8 = 8 marks)

9 Laila is teaching her child to tidy up their toys. She decides to use operant conditioning to teach her child to tidy up their toys.

(a) Describe how Laila could use operant conditioning to teach her child to tidy up their toys.

(2)

(b) Explain **two** strengths of Laila using operant conditioning when teaching her child to tidy up their toys.

(4)

1

2

(Total for Question 9 = 6 marks)

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10 In your studies of learning theories and development, you will have learned about one of the following contemporary studies:

- Prot (2014)
- Bastian et al. (2011).

Evaluate your chosen contemporary study.

(8)

Chosen study

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(Total for Question 10 = 8 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 34 MARKS

SECTION C

Answer ALL questions in this section. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

11 In your studies of learning theories and development, you will have learned about therapies/treatments.

To what extent is psychoanalysis an effective therapy/treatment?

(12)

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(Total for Question 11 = 12 marks)

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12 Antoni plays football and likes to use his head to control the ball. He is aggressive to members of the other football teams, often shouting at them and running into them when they have the ball. Antoni was recently sent off the pitch due to aggressively tackling an opponent, which the referee judged as a foul.

Antoni does not think he should have been sent off the pitch as his favourite professional football player tackles aggressively. He also watches football matches that his father plays in and sees his father shouting at other players. Antoni's father is often praised by other players on his team when he has aggressively tackled opponents in these games.

Evaluate brain functioning and social learning theory as an explanation of Antoni's behaviour.

You **must** refer to the context in your answer.

(16)

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(Total for Question 12 = 16 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION C = 28 MARKS
TOTAL FOR PAPER = 96 MARKS

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