

A2 Psychology PLC

Exam Technique

AO1 – detail & elaboration

AO1 – demonstrating understanding of explanations

AO1 – examples of key research studies

AO1 – selection of relevant research studies

AO1 – organisation and structure of 24-mark answers

AO2/3 – analysis and interpretation of research

AO2/3 – focus on evaluation relevant to topic

AO2/3 – issues, debates and approaches

AO2/3 – expression & coherent line of argument

AO2/3 – specialist vocabulary, grammar, punctuation and spelling

Biological Rhythms & Sleep

Circadian, Infradian & Ultradian rhythms

Nature of the endogenous pacemaker

Exogenous factors (zeitgebers)

Endogenous factors and regulation of the (circadian) sleep/wake cycle

Exogenous factors and regulation of the (circadian) sleep/wake cycle

Endogenous factors and regulation of (infradian) seasonal breeding

Exogenous factors and regulation of (infradian) seasonal breeding

Disruption of biological rhythms – shift work

Disruption of biological rhythms – jet lag

Stages of sleep (an ultradian rhythm)

Lifespan changes in sleep

Restoration explanations for sleep

Evolutionary explanations for sleep

Brain plasticity as an explanation for sleep

Clinical characteristics of primary and secondary insomnia

Explanations for insomnia, including sleep apnoea

Clinical characteristics of sleepwalking and REM behaviour disorder

Explanations of Sleepwalking and REM behaviour disorder

Clinical characteristics of narcolepsy

Explanations for narcolepsy

Personality and sleep

Relationships

Formation of relationships: Needs/Rewards Satisfaction Model.

Formation of relationships: Matching Hypothesis.	
Maintenance of relationships: Equity Theory.	
Maintenance of relationships: Investment Model.	
Breakdown of relationships: Rollie & Duck Model	
Breakdown of relationships: Evolutionary Explanation.	
Sexual Selection Theory.	
Evolutionary explanation of criteria for mate selection.	
Evolutionary explanation of gender differences in mate preferences.	
Evolutionary explanation of Gender differences in parental investment.	
Influence of early experiences on adult relationships.	
Influence of culture on romantic relationships: Marriage.	
Influence of culture on romantic relationships: Romantic Love.	
Influence of culture on romantic relationships: Divorce.	
Visual Perception	
The eye and the visual pathway	
Top-down (indirect) theories of perception	
Bottom-up (direct) theories of perception	
Differences between direct and indirect theories of perception	
Gregory's (constructivist) theory of visual perception	
Gibson's (direct) theory of visual perception	
Bottom-up and top-down explanations of depth perception	
Bottom-up and top-down explanations of visual constancies	
Methodological difficulties of neonate research	
Ethical issues in neonate research	
Techniques used in neonate research	
Infant studies of visual acuity and contrast (face perception)	
Infant studies of depth and distance perception	
Infant studies of visual constancies	
Cross-cultural studies of visual development	
The 'carpentered world' hypothesis	
Cultural bias in studies of visual development	
Nature-nurture and perceptual development	
Face recognition: Feature Analysis vs. Holistic Processing	
Bruce & Young's theory of face recognition	
Explanations of prosopagnosia	
Psychopathology: Phobias	
Classification and diagnosis of mental disorders	
Principles of classification and diagnosis	
Current classification systems: the DSM and ICD	
Reliability and validity of classification systems	
Clinical characteristics of phobic disorders: specific, social and agoraphobia	
Issues of reliability in classification & diagnosis of phobic disorders	

Issues of validity in classification & diagnosis of phobic disorders	
Genetic explanation of phobic disorders	
Biochemical explanation of phobic disorders	
Evaluation of Biological explanations	
Behavioural explanations of phobic disorders	
Cognitive explanations of phobic disorders	
Evaluation of psychological explanations	
The diathesis-stress model	
Biological therapies for phobic disorders - anti-anxiety drugs and antidepressants	
Evaluation of biological therapies	
Psychological therapies for phobic disorders - behavioural therapies and CBT	
Evaluation of psychological therapies	
Addiction	
Defining addiction	
Biological model of initiation, maintenance & relapse of addictive behaviour	
Evaluate biological model of addictive behaviour	
Cognitive model of initiation, maintenance & relapse of addictive behaviour	
Evaluate cognitive model of addictive behaviour	
Learning model of initiation, maintenance & relapse of addictive behaviour	
Evaluate learning model of addictive behaviour	
Explanations of smoking addiction	
Evaluation of explanations of smoking addiction	
Explanations of gambling addiction	
Evaluation of explanations of gambling addiction	
Vulnerability to addiction: self-esteem, attributions, and social influences	
Evaluation of research into vulnerability to addiction	
The role of the media in addictive behaviour	
Theory of Reasoned Action model of prevention	
Evaluation of Theory of Reasoned Action	
Theory of Planned Behaviour model of prevention	
Evaluation of Theory of Planned Behaviour	
Interventions: biological, psychological, public health, and legislation	
Evaluation of interventions	
Scientific Process & Research Methods	
The major features of science; replicability, objectivity, paradigms	
The scientific process	
Falsifiability (Popper) and scientific progress (Kuhn)	
Peer review and the validation of research	
Selection & application of research methods: experimental design	
Selection & application of research methods: observation design	
Selection & application of research methods: self-report design	
Random, volunteer, and opportunity sampling	
Discuss sampling methods, bias and generalizability of findings	
Reliability: experimenter, internal, external and inter-rater	
Assessment of reliability: split-half & test-retest methods	
Discuss how reliability of research can be improved	
Assessment of validity: face, content, concurrent, predictive	
Discuss how validity of research can be improved	
Ethics: informed consent, confidentiality, right to withdraw, deception & debriefing	

BPS Code of Ethics & conduct and research design	
Areas of concern in research that might harm participants	
Selection of graphical representations	
Probability and statistiocal significance	
Type 1 and Type 2 errors	
Levels of measurement: nominal, ordinal, interval, and ratio	
Choice of statistical test: Spearman's Rho, Mann-Whitney, Wilcoxon and Chi-Squared	
Use of statistical test: Spearman's Rho, Mann-Whitney, Wilcoxon and Chi-Squared	
Analysis of qualitative data: content analysis; thematic analysis	
Conventions and Structure of reports on psychological investigations	