



A-level Psychology: Answers and commentary index

This resource provides information about where you can find a wide range of marked student responses, with commentary, for our A-level Psychology specification. We have organised the index into the following sections:

- extended writing (8 and 16 marks)
- application questions
- 'design a study'-type questions.

Contents

You can use the title links to jump directly to the different sections of this resource.

Section A	Page
Extended writing responses (16-mark/8-mark questions)	3
Training guidance and events	8

Section B	Page
Application questions	11
Training guidance and events	16

Section C	Page
‘Design a study’-type questions	18

Section A: Extended writing responses

- [Answers and commentaries for Sample sets 1, 2 and 4](#) are available on the AQA website.
- Answers and commentaries for Sample set 3 are located on [Centre Services](#) (Resources/Assessment and training/Subjects/Psychology/Answers and commentary).
- The resources provide marked extended writing responses with accompanying examiner commentary. Mark schemes are included.

Paper 1: Sample set 1

[Answers and commentaries for A-level Psychology Paper 1 \(Sample set 1\)](#)

This resource provides marked extended writing responses, with commentary, for the following questions:

Topic	Page	Question
Social influence	3	Discuss two explanations of resistance to social influence. As part of your discussion, refer to the views expressed by Jack and Sarah in the conversation above. [16 marks]
Memory	9	Describe and evaluate the working memory model of memory. [16 marks]
Attachment	14	Discuss research into the influence of early attachment on adult relationships. [8 marks]

Paper 1: Sample set 2

[Answers and commentaries for A-level Psychology Paper 1 \(Sample set 2\)](#)

This resource provides marked extended writing responses, with commentary, for the following questions:

Topic	Page	Question
Memory	9	Discuss research into two or more factors that affect the reliability of eyewitness testimony. Refer to the information above in your answer. [16 marks]
Attachment	13	Discuss the effects of institutionalisation. Refer to the studies of Romanian orphans in your answer. [16 marks]

Paper 1: Sample set 3

Answers and commentaries for A-level Psychology Paper 1 (Sample set 3) are available on [Centre Services](#) (Resources/Assessment and training/Subjects/Psychology/Answers and commentary). This resource provides marked extended writing responses, with commentary, for the following questions:

Topic	Page	Question
Social influence	4	Steph and Jeff are student teachers who recently joined other members of staff on a one-day strike. When asked why they decided to do so, Steph replied, 'I never thought I would strike but I listened to the other teachers' arguments and now I have become quite passionate about it'. Jeff's explanation was different: 'To be honest, everyone else seemed to be striking and I didn't want to be the only one who wasn't'. Discuss explanations for conformity. Refer to Steph and Jeff as part of your discussion. [16 marks]
Clinical Psychology and Mental Health	18	Discuss two behavioural treatments for phobias. Refer to the conversation above in your answer. [16 marks]

Paper 1: Sample set 4

[Answers and commentaries for A-level Psychology Paper 1 \(Sample set 4\)](#)

This resource provides marked extended writing responses, with commentary, for the following questions:

Topic	Page	Question
Social influence	3	Describe how situational variables have been found to affect obedience. Discuss what these situational variables tell us about why we obey. [16 marks]
Memory	12	Rory is talking with his grandparent and playing a game on his phone at the same time. The game involves matching blocks of the same colour to complete vertical and horizontal lines. It is only when his grandparent asks him to describe his route to school that Rory puts down his game so he can concentrate fully on his answer. Discuss the working memory model. Refer to Rory's behaviour in your answer. [16 marks]
Attachment	21	Outline Lorenz's and Harlow's animal studies of attachment. Discuss what these studies might tell us about human attachment. [16 marks]

Paper 2: Sample set 1

[Answers and commentaries for A-level Psychology Paper 2 \(Sample set 1\)](#)

This resource provides marked extended writing responses, with commentary, for the following question:

Topic	Page	Question
Approaches	4	Discuss the contribution of behaviourist psychologists such as Pavlov and Skinner to our understanding of human behaviour. [16 marks]

Paper 2: Sample set 2

[Answers and commentaries for A-level Psychology Paper 2 \(Sample set 2\)](#)

This resource provides marked extended writing responses, with commentary, for the following questions:

Topic	Page	Question
Approaches	5	Outline the psychodynamic approach in psychology. Discuss one or more differences between the psychodynamic approach and the humanistic approach. [8 marks]
Biopsychology	9	Discuss how knowledge of hemispheric lateralisation and language centres in the brain has helped our understanding of cases such as Robert's. Refer to Robert's case in your answer. [16 marks]

Paper 2: Sample set 3

Answers and commentaries for A-level Psychology Paper 2 (Sample set 3) are available on [Centre Services](#) (Resources/Assessment and training/Subjects/Psychology/Answers and commentary). This resource provides marked extended writing responses, with commentary, for the following questions:

Topic	Page	Question
Approaches	5	Outline Pavlov's research into classical conditioning and describe how classical conditioning might explain a child's fear of school. [8 marks]
Biopsychology	8	Discuss what research has shown about localisation of function in the brain. [8 marks]

Paper 2: Sample set 4

[Answers and commentaries for A-level Psychology Paper 2 \(Sample set 4\)](#)

This resource provides marked extended writing responses, with commentary, for the following question:

Topic	Page	Question
Approaches	3	Discuss self-actualisation and/or conditions of worth in explaining human behaviour. [8 marks]

Paper 3: Sample set 1

[Answers and commentaries for A-level Psychology Paper 3 \(Sample set 1\)](#)

This resource provides marked extended writing responses, with commentary, for the following questions:

Topic	Page	Question
Gender	2	Describe and evaluate Kohlberg's explanation of gender development. [16 marks]
Aggression	7	Describe and evaluate the social learning theory of human aggression. [16 marks]

Paper 3: Additional sample set 1

[Additional answers and commentaries for A-level Psychology Paper 3 \(Sample set 1\)](#)

This resource provides marked extended writing responses, with commentary, for the following questions:

Topic	Page	Question
Cognition and development	11	Describe and evaluate Vygotsky's theory of cognitive development. [16 marks]
Schizophrenia	16	Discuss biological explanations for schizophrenia. [16 marks]
Stress	24	Drug therapy, stress inoculation therapy and biofeedback are methods used to cope with stress. Discuss two of these methods of coping with stress. [16 marks]
Addiction	32	Discuss explanations for gambling addiction. [16 marks]

Paper 3: Sample set 2

[Answers and commentaries for A-level Psychology Paper 3 \(Sample set 2\)](#)

This resource provides marked extended writing responses, with commentary, for the following questions:

Topic	Page	Question
Issues and debates	7	Outline and evaluate reductionist explanations in psychology. [8 marks]
Forensic Psychology	23	Discuss biological explanations of offending behaviour. [16 marks]
Cognition and development	12	Discuss Piaget's and Vygotsky's views on the development of cognition. Refer to the inspectors' comments in your answer. [16 marks]

Paper 3: Sample set 3

Answers and commentaries for A-level Psychology Paper 3 (Sample set 3) are available on [Centre Services](#) (Resources/Assessment and training/Subjects/Psychology/Answers and commentary). This resource provides marked extended writing responses, with commentary, for the following questions:

Topic	Page	Question
Issues and debates	3	Discuss the nature-nurture debate in psychology. Refer to at least two topics you have studied in your answer. [16 marks]
Relationships	7	Outline and evaluate the social exchange theory of relationships. [8 marks]
Cognition and development	14	Outline and evaluate Piaget's research into object permanence. [8 marks]
Schizophrenia	17	Outline and evaluate one or more psychological explanations for schizophrenia. [16 marks]
Stress	26	Discuss individual differences in responses to stress. [16 marks]

Paper 3: Sample set 4

[Answers and commentaries for A-level Psychology Paper 3 \(Sample set 4\)](#)

This resource provides marked extended writing responses, with commentary, for the following question:

Topic	Page	Question
Issues and debates	15	There are many examples of socially sensitive research in psychology. Outline what social sensitivity means in the context of psychology. Explain how researchers in psychology could deal with issues related to social sensitivity. [8 marks]

Training guidance and events: Extended writing examples

- Find a wide range of extended writing examples from the following events in [Centre Services](#) (Resources/Assessment and training/Subjects/Psychology/Training, guidance and events).
- The pre-event booklet (student responses) provides examples of unmarked student responses (you can use these to practise applying the mark scheme/for moderation etc.).
- The booklet also provides the mark scheme.
- The post-event booklet provides the mark awarded for the response, with commentary.

Event	Paper details	Question
Getting started, summer 2019	Paper 3, Q6, June 2017	Discuss two or more types of determinism. Refer to the case of Dancho as part of your discussion. [16 marks]
Getting started, summer 2019	Paper 3, Q23, June 2017	Outline and evaluate the use of antipsychotic drugs to treat schizophrenia. [8 marks]
Getting started, summer 2019	Paper 3, Q28, June 2017	Outline and evaluate the evolutionary explanation for food preferences. [8 marks]
Supporting student exam preparation, 2022	Paper 1, Q5, June 2019	Discuss ethical issues in social influence research. [8 marks]
Effective exam preparation, 2020	Paper 1, Q5, June 2019	Discuss ethical issues in social influence research. [8 marks]
Effective exam preparation, 2020	Paper 1, Q8, June 2019	Discuss the multi-store model of memory. Refer to the information above in your answer. [16 marks]
Feedback on the exams, 2019	Paper 3, Q4, June 2019	Discuss the nature-nurture debate in psychology. [16 marks]
Effective exam preparation, 2020	Paper 3, Q29, June 2019	Describe differential association theory in the context of offending. Refer to the study above in your answer. [8 marks]
Supporting student exam preparation, 2024	Paper 2, Q8, June 2022	Discuss localisation of function in the brain. [16 marks]
Supporting student exam preparation, 2024	Paper 2, Q8, June 2022	Discuss localisation of function in the brain. [16 marks]
Feedback on the exams, 2022	Paper 2, Q8, June 2022	Discuss localisation of function in the brain. [16 marks]

A-LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY – 7182 – ANSWERS AND COMMENTARY INDEX

Event	Paper details	Question
Feedback on the exams, autumn 2023	Paper 2, Q9, June 2023	Discuss research into plasticity and functional recovery of the brain after trauma. Refer to the views of the teacher and Xavier in your answer. [16 marks]
Supporting student exam preparation, 2024	Paper 3, Q4, June 2023	There are different levels of explanation in psychology, ranging from reductionism to holism. Discuss levels of explanation in psychology. Refer to one or more topics in your answer. [16 marks]
Feedback on the exams, autumn 2023	Paper 3, Q4, June 2023	There are different levels of explanation in psychology, ranging from reductionism to holism. Discuss levels of explanation in psychology. Refer to one or more topics in your answer. [16 marks]
Preparing for 2025 (Paper 1)	Paper 1, Q4, June 2024	Discuss consistency and flexibility as processes involved in minority influence. [8 marks]
Raising potential, 2025	Paper 1, Q9, June 2024	Discuss the effect of post-event discussion on the accuracy of eyewitness testimony. Refer to the information above in your answer. [8 marks]
Working towards outstanding grades, 2025	Paper 1, Q13, June 2024	Discuss Romanian orphan studies.* [16 marks] <i>*Note change of language in updated specification</i> Full mark example available
Raising potential, 2025	Paper 1, Q16, June 2024	Discuss the cognitive approach to explaining depression. [16 marks]
Preparing for 2025 (Paper 1)	Paper 1, Q16, June 2024	Discuss the cognitive approach to explaining depression. [16 marks]
Working towards outstanding grades, 2025	Paper 2, Q6, June 2024	Outline how behaviourists explain learning through the process of operant conditioning. Compare operant conditioning with social learning. [8 marks] Full mark example available
Preparing for 2025 (Paper 3)	Paper 3, Q5, June 2024	Discuss determinism in psychology. Refer to Maria in your answer. [16 marks]
Preparing for 2026 (Paper 1)	Paper 1, Q4, June 2025	Discuss two explanations for conformity. Refer to Julie and Anthony in your answer. [16 marks] Full mark example available
Preparing for 2026 (Paper 1)	Paper 1, Q21, June 2025	Discuss the neural explanation for obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) and the use of drug therapy to treat obsessive-compulsive disorder. [16 marks]

A-LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY – 7182 – ANSWERS AND COMMENTARY INDEX

Event	Paper details	Question
Preparing for 2026 (Paper 2)	Paper 2, Q3, June 2025	Describe and evaluate the psychodynamic approach in psychology. [16 marks] Full mark example available
Preparing for 2026 (Paper 2)	Paper 2, Q8, June 2025	Discuss what research has shown about hemispheric lateralisation. [8 marks]
Preparing for 2026 (Paper 3)	Paper 3, Q17, June 2025	Discuss the diathesis-stress model as a way of explaining schizophrenia. [16 marks]
Preparing for 2026 (Paper 3)	Paper 3, Q26, June 2025	Discuss the situational explanation of institutional aggression in the context of prisons. Refer to Max's experiences in your answer. [16 marks]
Preparing for 2026 (Paper 3)	Paper 3, Q31, June 2025	Discuss level of moral reasoning as an explanation for offending. Refer to Debi's comments in your answer. [16 marks]

Section B: Application questions

- [Answers and commentaries for Sample sets 1, 2 and 4](#) are available on the AQA website.
- Answers and commentaries for Sample set 3 are located on [Centre Services](#) (Resources/Assessment and training/Subjects/Psychology/Answers and commentary).
- The resources provide marked extended writing responses with accompanying examiner commentary. Mark schemes are included.

Paper 1: Sample set 1

[Answers and commentaries for A-level Psychology Paper 1 \(Sample set 1\)](#)

This resource provides marked application responses, with commentary, for the following questions:

Topic	Page	Question
Social influence	3	Discuss two explanations of resistance to social influence. As part of your discussion, refer to the views expressed by Jack and Sarah in the conversation above. [16 marks]
Memory	8	In Stage 3 of the experiment, several participants in Group A, the 'similar' condition, recalled words from the Stage 2 list rather than the Stage 1 list. Use your knowledge of forgetting to explain why this may have occurred. [2 marks]
Clinical Psychology and Mental Health	16	Apart from 'deviation from ideal mental health', outline three definitions of abnormality. Refer to the article above in your answer. [6 marks]
Clinical Psychology and Mental Health	17	Suggest how the behavioural approach might be used to explain Kirsty's phobia of balloons. [4 marks]

Paper 1: Sample set 2

[Answers and commentaries for A-level Psychology Paper 1 \(Sample set 2\)](#)

This resource provides marked application responses, with commentary, for the following questions:

Topic	Page	Question
Social influence	4	Use your knowledge of conformity and minority influence to explain the factors that will determine how successful the small group of students will be. [7 marks]
Memory	8	With reference to features of the working memory model, explain the different experiences of Bryan and Bob. [4 marks]
Memory	9	Discuss research into two or more factors that affect the reliability of eyewitness testimony. Refer to the information above in your answer. [16 marks]
Clinical Psychology and Mental Health	20	Outline the implications of psychological research for the economy. Refer to the investigation above in your answer. [5 marks]

Paper 1: Sample set 3

Answers and commentaries for A-level Psychology Paper 1 (Sample set 3) are available on [Centre Services](#) (Resources/Assessment and training/Subjects/Psychology/Answers and commentary).

This resource provides marked application responses, with commentary, for the following questions:

Topic	Page	Question
Social influence	4	Discuss explanations for conformity. Refer to Steph and Jeff as part of your discussion. [16 marks]
Memory	7	With reference to the experiment involving Patient X, outline two types of long-term memory. [4 marks]
Attachment	12	Explain Bowlby's monotropic theory. Refer to the data in Table 1 in your answer. [6 marks]
Clinical Psychology and Mental Health	18	Discuss two behavioural treatments for phobias. Refer to the conversation above in your answer. [16 marks]

Paper 1: Sample set 4

[Answers and commentaries for A-level Psychology Paper 1 \(Sample set 4\)](#)

This resource provides marked application responses, with commentary, for the following questions:

Topic	Page	Question
Social influence	36	A teacher was absent and left work for students to complete during the lesson. Some students in the class did not do the work their teacher had left for them. Use one possible explanation of resistance to social influence to explain why this happened. [4 marks]
Memory	12	Discuss the working memory model. Refer to Rory's behaviour in your answer. [16 marks]

Paper 2: Sample set 1

[Answers and commentaries for A-level Psychology Paper 2 \(Sample set 1\)](#)

This resource provides marked application responses, with commentary, for the following questions:

Topic	Page	Question
Approaches	3	In a laboratory study of problem-solving, cognitive psychologists asked participants to solve problems presented in different colours of ink. They found that it took longer to solve problems presented in green ink, than it did to solve problems presented in other colours. They inferred that the mental processing of problems is made more difficult when a problem is presented in green ink. Explain what is meant by 'inference' in relation to this study. [2 marks]

A-LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY – 7182 – ANSWERS AND COMMENTARY INDEX

Topic	Page	Question
Approaches	3	Outline what is meant by 'congruence'. Explain one way in which Dominic might achieve 'congruence'. [4 marks]

Paper 2: Sample set 2

[Answers and commentaries for A-level Psychology Paper 2 \(Sample set 2\)](#)

This resource provides marked application responses, with commentary, for the following questions:

Topic	Page	Question
Approaches	2	Referring to Bradley's experiences, explain the role of mediational processes in learning. [4 marks]
Biopsychology	9	Discuss how knowledge of hemispheric lateralisation and language centres in the brain has helped our understanding of cases such as Robert's. Refer to Robert's case in your answer. [16 marks]

Paper 2: Sample set 3

Answers and commentaries for A-level Psychology Paper 2 (Sample set 3) are available on [Centre Services](#) (Resources/Assessment and training/Subjects/Psychology/Answers and commentary).

This resource provides marked application responses, with commentary, for the following questions:

Topic	Page	Question
Approaches	3	Outline what is meant by cognitive neuroscience and describe one practical application of cognitive neuroscience. [6 marks]
Approaches	5	Outline Pavlov's research into classical conditioning and describe how classical conditioning might explain a child's fear of school. [8 marks]
Biopsychology	10	Raoul has recently been prescribed a drug for mental illness. He looks on the internet to find out more about the drug but he does not understand the phrase 'synaptic transmission'. Write a brief explanation of synaptic transmission in the brain to help Raoul understand how his drug might work. [3 marks]

Paper 3: Additional sample set 1

[Additional Answers and commentaries for A-level Psychology Paper 3 \(Sample set 1\)](#)

This resource provides marked application responses, with commentary, for the following questions:

Topic	Page	Question
Schizophrenia	14	Using your knowledge of schizophrenia, explain why Louise is now showing symptoms of schizophrenia. [4 marks]
Eating behaviour	19	Using your knowledge of the role of learning in food preference, outline how parents might encourage their children to eat a healthy diet. [4 marks]
Stress	22	Using your knowledge of workplace stress, explain why Mike may be experiencing these stress-related symptoms. [4 marks]
Aggression	27	Read the item and then answer the questions that follow. News correspondents in inner cities have remarked upon how young males frequently carry weapons and engage in threatening behaviour. Using your knowledge of evolutionary explanations of aggression, account for these high levels of aggression in young males. [4 marks]
Addiction	31	Read the item and then answer the question that follows. Dave comes from a family of smokers. He began smoking at an early age. Now in his twenties, he has tried to stop smoking but finds it difficult, especially now that he has taken on more responsibility at work. Briefly explain risk factors relevant to Dave's addiction to smoking. [4 marks]

Paper 3: Sample set 2

[Answers and commentaries for A-level Psychology Paper 3 \(Sample set 2\)](#)

This resource provides marked application responses, with commentary, for the following questions:

Topic	Page	Question
Issues and debates	2	With reference to the item above, explain what is meant by 'determinism'. Refer to three types of determinism in your answer. [6 marks]
Issues and debates	4	With reference to the item above, identify one influence of nature on our behaviour and one influence of nurture on our behaviour. [2 marks]
Cognition and development	12	Discuss Piaget's and Vygotsky's views on the development of cognition. Refer to the inspectors' comments in your answer. [16 marks]
Schizophrenia	17	What do the data in Table 1 seem to show about the effectiveness of typical and atypical antipsychotics in the treatment of schizophrenia? [4 marks]

Paper 3: Sample set 3

Answers and commentaries for A-level Psychology Paper 3 (Sample set 3) are available on [Centre Services](#) (Resources/Assessment and training/Subjects/Psychology/Answers and commentary).

This resource provides marked application writing responses, with commentary, for the following questions:

Topic	Page	Question
Issues and debates	3	Discuss the nature-nurture debate in psychology. Refer to at least two topics you have studied in your answer. [16 marks]
Issues and debates	2	Referring to the item above, explain what is meant by holism and reductionism. [4 marks]
Relationships	6	Explain how Maria's self-disclosure during her use of social media might differ from her self-disclosure in face-to-face encounters. [4 marks]
Gender	9	Explain how Patrick's high level of androgyny might be demonstrated in his behaviour at work. [4 marks]
Cognition and development	12	Referring to Katie and her mother, explain what is involved in scaffolding. [4 marks]
Eating behaviour	21	Suggest one or more strategies that might help Nicky to lose weight and to maintain the weight loss. [4 marks]
Stress	24	From your knowledge of managing and coping with stress, explain how Sadiq could deal with his stress. [4 marks]

Paper 3: Sample set 4

[Answers and commentaries for A-level Psychology Paper 3 \(Sample set 4\)](#)

This resource provides marked application responses, with commentary, for the following questions:

Topic	Page	Question
Issues and debates	8	The psychologist claimed to have demonstrated a causal explanation for happiness. What is meant by a causal explanation? Explain why it was appropriate to claim that there was a causal explanation in this case. [4 marks]
Issues and debates	5	Explain two reasons why it was appropriate to use a Wilcoxon test in this situation. Refer to the description of the study in your answer. [4 marks]

Training guidance and events: Application question examples

- Find a wide range of application question examples from the following events in [Centre Services](#) (Resources/Assessment and training/Subjects/Psychology/Training, guidance and events).
- The pre-event booklet (student responses) provides examples of unmarked student responses (you can use these to practise applying the mark scheme/for moderation etc.).
- The booklet also provides the mark scheme.
- The post-event booklet provides the mark awarded for the response, with commentary.

Event	Paper details	Question
Getting started, 2019	Paper 2, Q1, June 2017	Explain why John's genotype will not reveal whether he will suffer from Alzheimer's disease. [4 marks]
Getting started, 2019	Paper 2, Q3, June 2017	Outline and evaluate the humanistic approach. Refer to Tatiana's behaviour in your answer. [16 marks]
Getting started, 2019	Paper 3, Q3, June 2017	Explain how the newspaper headline might be an example of beta bias. [2 marks]
Getting started, 2019	Paper 3, Q6, June 2017	' Discuss two or more types of determinism. Refer to the case of Dancho as part of your discussion. [16 marks]
Feedback on the exams, 2023	Paper 2, Q8, June 2023	Outline the fight or flight response and use this to explain what Xavier was experiencing. [6 marks]
Feedback on the exams, 2023	Paper 2, Q9, June 2023	Discuss research into plasticity and functional recovery of the brain area after trauma. Refer to the views of the teacher and Xavier in your answer. [16 marks]
Feedback on the exams, 2023	Paper 3, Q3, June 2023	Use your knowledge of determinism to explain Bob's and Mike's comments. [4 marks]
Feedback on the exams, 2023	Paper 3, Q4, June 2023	There are different levels of explanation in psychology, ranging from reductionism to holism. Discuss levels of explanation in psychology. Refer to one or more topics in your answer. [16 marks]
Preparing for 2025 (Paper 2)	Paper 2, Q4, June 2024	Explain why a humanist psychologist would suggest that Karishma is not displaying congruence. [2 marks]
Preparing for 2025 (Paper 3)	Paper 3, Q5, June 2024	Discuss determinism in psychology. Refer to Maria in your answer. [16 marks]
Preparing for 2026 (Paper 1)	Paper 1, Q4, June 2025	Discuss two explanations for conformity. Refer to Julie and Anthony in your answer. [16 marks]

A-LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY – 7182 – ANSWERS AND COMMENTARY INDEX

Event	Paper details	Question
		Full mark example available
Preparing for 2026 (Paper 2)	Paper 2, Q7, June 2025	Explain how functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) might be used to study Sam's memory. [6 marks]
Preparing for 2026 (Paper 3)	Paper 3, Q26, June 2025	Discuss the situational explanation of institutional aggression in the context of prisons. Refer to Max's experiences in your answer. [16 marks]
Preparing for 2026 (Paper 3)	Paper 3, Q31, June 2025	Discuss level of moral reasoning as an explanation for offending. Refer to Debi's comments in your answer. [16 marks]

Section C: 'Design a study'-type questions

The following resources provide marked application responses, with commentary, for the following questions:

Location	Page	Question
Answers and commentaries for A-level Psychology Paper 2 (Sample set 1)	21	Design an observation study to investigate sex differences in non-verbal behaviour of males and females when they are giving a presentation to an audience. In your answer you should provide details of: - the task for the participants - the behavioural categories to be used and how the data will be recorded - how reliability of the data collection might be established - ethical issues to be considered. [12 marks]
Answers and commentaries for A-level Psychology Paper 2 (Sample set 2)	24	Discuss the following aspects of this investigation: - with reference to the card sorting task, explain how you would ensure that this is made the same task for all participants - one methodological issue you should take into account when obtaining suitable participants for this study and explain how you would deal with this issue - how you would ensure that the experience of your participants is ethical. [9 marks]
Answers and commentaries for A-level Psychology Paper 2 (Sample set 3) are available on Centre Services (Resources/ Assessment and training/Subjects/ Psychology/ Answers and commentary)	14	Design an experiment to investigate the effect of indoor plants on mood in office workers. For your measure of mood you should devise a measure that would give data suitable for testing at the ordinal level of measurement. In your answer you should provide details of: - design – include reference to the experimental design, variables and controls. - materials/apparatus – describe any special materials required. - data analysis that could be used – include reference to descriptive and inferential analysis. Justify your choices. [12 marks]
Answers and commentaries for A-level Psychology Paper 2 (Sample set 4)	18	A new TV programme has been developed to increase positive social behaviours in pre-school children. There is a proposal to carry out an experiment to compare the effects of the new TV programme and an existing TV programme, on

A-LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY – 7182 – ANSWERS AND COMMENTARY INDEX

Location	Page	Question
		positive social behaviours in pre-school children. A sample of 500 pre-school children and their parents is available for the experiment. The parents have given consent for their children to take part in this experiment. The experiment will take place over an 8-week period. Data on the children's social behaviours will be gathered from the parents using a self-report method. Design the experiment to investigate whether watching the new TV programme leads to an increase in positive social behaviours in the children, compared with watching the existing TV programme. In your answer you will gain credit for providing appropriate details of the following: - the type of experimental design, with justification - a self-report method of data collection, with justification - how to control one extraneous variable, with justification as to why this would need to be controlled. [12 marks]
Getting started, 2019	76 Paper 2, Q21, June 2017	Design an observational study to investigate how people spend their time at the gym. In your answer you will be awarded credit for providing appropriate details of: - type of observation with justification - operationalised behavioural categories - use of time and/or event sampling with justification how reliability of data collection could be assessed. [12 marks]
Preparing for 2026 (Paper 2)	4 Paper 2, Q20, June 2025	Design a study to investigate students' experiences of online learning. In your answer you will gain credit for providing appropriate details of the following: - the type of self-report technique that will be used, with justification - an example of one relevant question that could be used to collect qualitative data, with justification - how you would ensure the ethical treatment of participants - how content analysis could be used to analyse the qualitative data. [12 marks]

Further support resources

- [AQA's on-demand course for mark scheme guidance and application](#) is valuable for supporting application of the mark scheme in preparation for the marking of mock exams.
- [Podcast Teaching guide: Preparing for AS and A-level Psychology assessment.](#)