

COLLECTION OF MODEL ANSWERS TO  
5 PAST YEAR QUESTIONS -  
COMPLETE 24-MARKER ANSWERS

# A-LEVEL PAPER 4 **CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY**

## **DESIGN-A-STUDY MODEL ANSWERS**

**1. (a) Plan a study using an online questionnaire to investigate whether rational emotive behaviour therapy (REBT) is effective as a treatment for depression.**

**Your plan must include details about:**

- **question scoring/interpretation,**
- **ethical guidelines. [10]**

**Ans.**

The aim of the study is to investigate whether

A sample of 100 adult participants between 18–65 years who are currently undergoing

When participants access the questionnaire link, they will be presented with

The questionnaire will consist of both closed and open questions. The closed questions will measure

For scoring and interpretation, numbers will be assigned to [redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

The reliability of the study is increased by [redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

The final report will include mean scores of [redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted].

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**(b) For one piece of psychological knowledge on which your plan is based:**

**(i) Describe this psychological knowledge. [4]**

**Ans.**

Rational emotive behaviour therapy (REBT) is a

[REDACTED]

**(ii) Explain how you used two features of this psychological knowledge to plan your study. [4]**

**Ans.**

Firstly, since REBT focuses on clients' beliefs,

[REDACTED]

Secondly, disputing is a key technique in REBT. Therefore,

[REDACTED]

**(c) (i) Explain one reason for your choice of question scoring/interpretation. [2]**

**Ans.**

A 5-point Likert scale was used for scoring because

**(ii) Explain one weakness of your choice of question scoring/interpretation. [2]**

**Ans.**

A weakness of using Likert scale scoring is that it

s.

**(iii) Explain one reason for your choice of an ethical guideline that you followed.**

**[2]**

**Ans.**

Confidentiality was maintained by not collecting

**2. (a) Plan a study using a questionnaire with open questions to investigate generalised anxiety disorder in university students.**

**Your plan must include details about:**

- **question interpretation/scoring**
- **the questionnaire technique. [10]**

**Ans.**

The aim of this study is to investigate how

A sample of 50 university students will be recruited for this study using

Written informed consent will be taken

An online questionnaire will be created and

The questionnaire will consist of ten open-ended questions asking about

It will include questions such as, "Please describe

Answers to these questions will be interpreted using

[REDACTED]

Validity of the study is improved by using

[REDACTED]

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**(b) For one piece of psychological knowledge on which your plan is based:**

**(i) Describe this psychological knowledge. [4]**

Spitzer et al. developed the GAD-7, a

[REDACTED]

**(ii) Explain how you used two features of this psychological knowledge to plan your study. [4]**

Firstly, I used the assumption that

[REDACTED]

Secondly, I used the idea that

[REDACTED]

**(c) (i) Explain one reason for the way you chose to interpret/score responses to your questions. [2]**

**Ans.**

Thematic analysis was chosen because it allows

[REDACTED]

**(ii) Explain one weakness of the way you chose to interpret/score responses to your questions. [2]**

**Ans.**

One weakness of thematic analysis is that it can be

[REDACTED]

**(iii) Explain one reason for your choice of questionnaire technique. [2]**

**Ans.**

An online questionnaire was chosen because

[REDACTED]



**3. (a) Plan an experiment to investigate which anti-depressant drug is more effective for treating depression.**

**Your plan must include details about:**

- **experimental design**
- **type of experiment. [10]**

**Ans.**

The aim of the study is to investigate which of two anti-depressant drugs is more effective in treating depression. The independent variable is

An independent measures design will be used. The

A sample of 40 adult participants, all diagnosed with

Each participant will be given a written informed consent to sign, which will clearly state that

Participants will be randomly assigned into two groups using

Before beginning the treatment, all participants will complete the [redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

This is a field experiment as participants will be instructed to consume [redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted].

For beneficence to participants, the study avoids [redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

Only quantitative data will be collected in this study, in the form of [redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

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**(b) For one piece of psychological knowledge on which your plan is based:**

**(i) Describe this psychological knowledge. [4]**

**Ans.**

One piece of psychological knowledge on which this study is based is

[REDACTED]

**(ii) Explain how you used two features of this psychological knowledge to plan your experiment. [4]**

**Ans.**

Firstly, the plan uses the feature that SSRIs are selective in

[REDACTED].

Secondly, the plan also uses the feature that tricyclics affect

[REDACTED]

**(c) (i) Explain one reason for your choice of experimental design. [2]**

**Ans.**

An independent measures design was chosen because it

[REDACTED]

**(ii) Explain one weakness of your choice of experimental design. [2]**

**Ans.**

A weakness of using an independent measures design is that participant variables may affect the results. For example,

[REDACTED]

**(iii) Explain one reason for your choice of type of experiment. [2]**

**Ans.**

A field experiment was chosen because it allows participants to take

[REDACTED]

**4. (a) There can be problems with using electro-convulsive therapy (ECT) as a treatment for schizophrenia, for example side effects.**

**(a) Plan an experiment with a longitudinal design to investigate whether there are problems with ECT as a treatment for schizophrenia.**

**Your plan must include details about:**

- **controls**
- **a directional or non-directional hypothesis. [10]**

**Ans.**

The aim of this study is to investigate whether

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_”

The study will use a longitudinal experimental design for a total duration of one year, during which

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The sample will include 30 patients diagnosed with schizophrenia according to ICD-11 criteria. It will be divided into

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

Written informed consent will be obtained from all participants after

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The study will use structured interviews conducted by trained clinical psychologists.

These interviews will occur

[REDACTED]

To increase validity, participants in both groups will continue with

[REDACTED]

In case participants are unable to attend interviews at the clinic for a particular time point,

[REDACTED]

The data collected will be only quantitative. At the end of one year,

[REDACTED]

**(b) For one piece of psychological knowledge on which your plan is based:**

**(i) Describe this psychological knowledge. [4]**

**Ans.**

Electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) is a treatment in which

[REDACTED]

**(ii) Explain how you used two features of this psychological knowledge to plan your experiment. [4]**

**Ans.**

One feature is that ECT can cause side effects such as

[REDACTED]

The second feature used is that ECT is typically administered

[REDACTED]

**(c) (i) Explain one reason for your choice of controls. [2]**

**Ans.**

A control group of participants which does not receive ECT but continues with medication is used to ensure that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**(ii) Explain one weakness of the use of a longitudinal design in your study. [2]**

**Ans.**

A weakness of the longitudinal design is the risk of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**(iii) Explain one reason for your choice of directional or non-directional hypothesis. [2]**

**Ans.**

A directional hypothesis was chosen because previous research suggests that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



5. (a) Plan a study using a questionnaire with closed questions to investigate the effectiveness of using imaginal desensitisation for treating pyromania.

Your plan must include details about:

- questionnaire technique
- rating scale. [10]

Ans.

The aim of the study is to investigate whether

An opportunity sample of 20 adults, both male and female, aged 18–60 years, diagnosed with

Interested patients will be informed that they will undergo

Then, individual imaginal desensitisation therapy will be conducted by a trained therapist for

. Each script will start with the situation that typically triggers

Upon completion of the final session of the therapy, participants will be asked to

[REDACTED]

All participants will be debriefed after completing the questionnaire. They will be informed that the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

All participants will receive identical questionnaires with the same questions and response options, thereby [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

To analyse the data, each response will be assigned a score from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**(b) For one piece of psychological knowledge on which your plan is based:**

**(i) Describe this psychological knowledge. [4]**

**Ans.**

Imaginal desensitisation is a cognitive-behavioural technique used to reduce impulsive behaviours by combining muscle

[REDACTED]

**(ii) Explain how you used two features of this psychological knowledge to plan your study. [4]**

**Ans.**

Firstly, I used the feature of preparing a

[REDACTED]

Secondly, I used the feature of training patients in

[REDACTED]

**(c) (i) Explain one reason for your choice of questionnaire technique. [2]**

**Ans.**

The paper-and-pencil questionnaire was chosen because it allows

s.

**(ii) Explain one weakness of your choice of questionnaire technique. [2]**

**Ans.**

A weakness of this technique is the lack of privacy as participants

**(iii) Explain one reason for your choice of rating scale. [2]**

**Ans.**

The 5-point Likert scale was selected because it allows participants to express

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