

PAPER 2 - PAST PAPER SOLUTIONS

For CAIE AS Psychology Paper 2

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Section A

1 A researcher is conducting an observation to investigate the study habits of students. The observation uses a fixed list of behavioural categories.

(a) Explain whether this observation is structured or unstructured. [1]

This observation is structured because the researcher has already decided what behaviours will be recorded.

(b) (i) Suggest two behavioural categories that the researcher could use to observe the study habits of students. [2]

(1) Number of times a student writes notes ; (2) Time spent looking at a textbook.

(ii) For one of the behavioural categories you suggested in part (b)(i): Suggest one methodological problem with using this category to observe the study habits of students.

For the category 'time spent looking at a textbook', it could be difficult to measure accurately because a student might appear to be reading but could actually be daydreaming. Thus, the researcher might overestimate study time.

2 In the study by Saavedra and Silverman (button phobia), imagery exposure was investigated. During this, the boy reported a 'severity rating' for distress at three different 'time frames'.

(a) State what was meant by the time frames 1, 2 and 3. [2]

1. Time frame 1: Before the imagery exposure session.

2. [REDACTED]

(b) Outline the change in severity rating from time frame 1 to time frame 3, when the boy had to imagine hundreds of buttons falling on his body. [1]

The boy's distress [REDACTED]

3 The study by Hölzel et al. (mindfulness and brain scans) used participants who wanted to reduce their stress and were able to have an MRI scan. There were several other inclusion criteria (reasons for being included in the sample).

(a) Outline two other inclusion criteria. [2]

1. Participants had to be between [redacted]

**(b) For each of the inclusion criteria outlined in part (a):
Suggest why each inclusion criterion was important in this study, other than to ensure that the experimental and control groups were similar. [2]**

Age range was important because younger and older adults [redacted]

Excluding recent meditators was important because prior experience could have [redacted]

4 The study by Baron-Cohen et al. (eyes test) used an independent measures design.

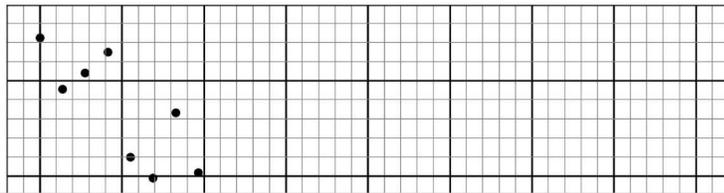
(a) Explain one strength of using an independent measures design. [2]

One strength is that it eliminates order effects like practice. Participants only took part in [redacted]

(b) Explain one weakness of using an independent measures design.

One weakness is that individual differences can act as confounding variables. This means [redacted]

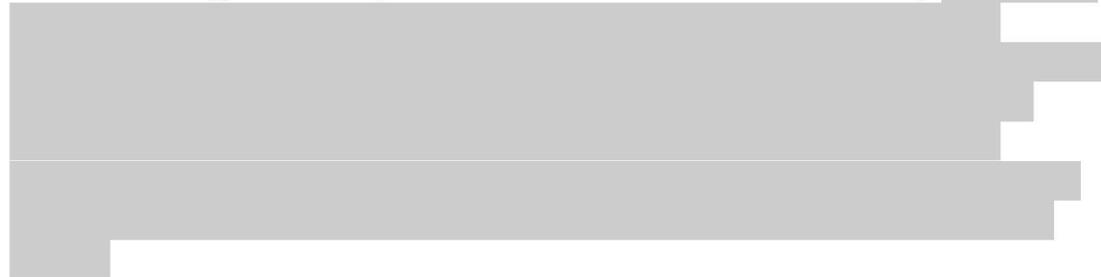
5 Sketch a graph on the axes in Fig. 5.1 to show a negative correlation between ‘time spent watching television’ and ‘attention span’. You must label the axes. [2]



6 Describe measures of central tendency, using any example(s). [6]

Measures of central tendency are ways of calculating an average to represent a set of data with a single value.

The three main types are mean, median and mode. The mean is calculated by



7 Professor March is interested in interpersonal distance. He has met Dennis, who needs a large interpersonal distance. Dennis has agreed to Professor March conducting a case study about him using a questionnaire.

(a) Suggest why Dennis may prefer Professor March to use a questionnaire rather than a face-to-face interview. [1]

Dennis needs a large interpersonal distance, so he would feel

(b) Suggest two examples of questions that Professor March could use to collect data about the need Dennis has for a large interpersonal distance. [2]

1. On a scale of 1 to 10, with “1” being “extremely uncomfortable” to “

(c) Suggest one problem that Professor March could have when using a questionnaire to study Dennis. [3]

Since Dennis needs a large interpersonal distance, Professor March

8 Dr East is observing children playing. She is a participant observer. The children have met Dr East before and believe she is a playground assistant who watches them when their teachers have lunch.

(a) Suggest one strength of using participant observation in this study. [2]

One strength is that

(b) Suggest one advantage of Dr East using a non-participant observation compared to a participant observation. [2]

One advantage is that the children's playing may be more

(c) Explain one ethical problem caused by the children believing that Dr East is a playground assistant. [2]

Deception, as the children are being lied to about Dr East's true identity. This means

9 Dr Okami is using animals in an experiment to study the effects of noise on learning. In this study, the animals will learn to run through narrow tunnels and will meet other animals. Each animal will either run through the tunnels with noise or run through the tunnels without noise.

(a) Explain whether the experimental design of Dr Okami’s study is repeated measures or independent measures. [1]

It is independent measures because each animal only [redacted]
[redacted]

(b) The independent variable is ‘with noise or without noise’ and the dependent variable is ‘learn to run through the tunnels’.

Define what is meant by the terms ‘independent variable’ and ‘dependent variable’. [2]

1. Independent variable: The variable that is manipulated by the [redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted]

(c) Dr Okami needs to follow ethical guidelines in relation to animals.

(i) Dr Okami will use reinforcement to help the animals learn to run through the narrow tunnels.

Suggest one way that the animals could be reinforced. Your answer must be ethical. [2]

The animals could be reinforced with a [redacted]
[redacted].

(ii) Dr Okami needs to follow the guideline of ‘species’.

Explain two ways that Dr Okami’s choice of animal will be affected by following this guideline.

One way is that Dr Okami should choose a small species. This is because [redacted]
[redacted] e.

Another way is that he should choose a social species. This is because the animals will meet other animals during the task, and using a social species reduces the risk of aggression.

(iii) Dr Okami needs to follow the guideline of ‘minimising harm’. Suggest why this guideline is relevant to Dr Okami’s study. [2]

Exposure to loud noise could cause distress or pain to the animals. Also,

Section B

10 Dr Aster is interviewing people about their exciting experiences. He is interested in peoples' feelings about different types of exciting experience.

(a) Describe how Dr Aster could conduct a study using an interview to investigate peoples' feelings about different types of exciting experience.

Do not describe sample / sampling technique or ethical issues / guidelines in your answer. [10]

Dr Aster could conduct his study using a semi-structured interview, which he would carry out face-to-face with each participant. This format would work well because

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

For open-ended questions, he might ask "Please describe in

[Redacted]

Dr Aster would ask the same core questions to each person, but the semi-structured nature

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

(b) For one part of the procedure you described in part (a):

(i) Describe one practical/methodological strength of this part of the procedure. Do not refer to sampling or ethics in your answer. [2]

A strength of using open-ended questions is that they

[Redacted]

(ii) Describe one practical/methodological weakness of this part of the procedure. Do not refer to sampling or ethics in your answer. [2]

A weakness of using closed questions with rating scales is that

[Redacted]