



GCE A LEVEL



A290U20-1

WEDNESDAY, 21 MAY 2025 – MORNING

PSYCHOLOGY – A level component 2

Psychology: Investigating Behaviour

**2 hours 15 minutes plus your additional
time allowance**

Surname _____

First name(s) _____

Centre Number _____

Candidate Number 2 _____

For Examiner's use only		
Question	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
1.	4	
2.	4	
3.	6	
4.	6	
5.	2	
6.	4	
7.	6	
8.	14	
9.	15	
10.	15	
11.	8	
12.	16	
Total	100	

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this paper you may require a calculator and a ruler.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink, black ball-point pen or your usual method.

Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the spaces provided on the front cover.

Answer ALL questions.

Write your answers in the spaces provided in this booklet. Additional space is provided for some questions within the booklet (if required). If further space is

(Turn over)

required for any question, you should use the additional page(s) at the back of the booklet taking care to number the question(s) correctly.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question or part-question.

You are reminded of the necessity for good English and orderly presentation in your answers.

Assessment will take into account the quality of written communication used in your answers.

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SECTION A – PRINCIPLES OF RESEARCH

Answer ALL questions.

1 (a) Explain what is meant by the term ‘confounding variable’. [2 marks]

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**1 (b) Explain what is meant by the term
‘co-variables’. [2 marks]**

2. Using appropriate symbols, express the following:

(a) equal to [1 mark]

(b) greater than [1 mark]

(c) probability of less than 10% [2 marks]

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3. Explain TWO advantages of using longitudinal research. [6 marks]

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4 (a) Describe how you would use a stratified sampling technique to select a sample of participants. [2 marks]

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4 (b) Explain ONE advantage and ONE disadvantage of using stratified sampling in psychological research.

[2 marks + 2 marks]

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[illegible]

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- 5. Explain how you would calculate the mean value of a set of data.**
- [2 marks]**

6 (a) Explain the difference between $p < 0.01$ and $p < 0.05$. [2 marks]

**6 (b) Explain the difference between
‘interval data’ and ‘ratio data’.**

[2 marks]

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7. Evaluate the use of conducting research on-line. [6 marks]

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Additional space for Question 7 only:

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8 (a) Describe the sample used in Milgram's (1963) research 'Behavioural study of Obedience'. [4 marks]

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Additional space for Question 8 (a) only:

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8 (b) Briefly evaluate the sample used in Milgram's (1963) research 'Behavioural study of Obedience'. [5 marks]

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8 (c) Briefly evaluate the ethical issues in Milgram's (1963) research 'Behavioural study of Obedience'. [5 marks]

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SECTION B – PERSONAL INVESTIGATIONS

You should answer ALL the questions in this section with reference to the investigations carried out in your study of psychology.

INVESTIGATION ONE: A quasi-experiment on age and sleep.

9 (a) State a fully operationalised hypothesis for your quasi-experiment. [2 marks]

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9 (b) Justify ONE reason why a quasi-experiment was the most suitable method for this investigation. [2 marks]

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Additional space for Question 9 (b) only:

9 (c) Explain ONE issue of reliability which you considered in your quasi-experiment and how you dealt with the issue. [4 marks]

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Additional space for Question 9 (c) only:

9 (d) Explain ONE ethical issue which you considered in your quasi-experiment and how you managed this ethical issue. [4 marks]

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Additional space for Question 9 (d) only:

9 (e) Identify and justify the descriptive statistic you used to describe the data in your quasi-experiment.

[1 mark + 2 marks]

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INVESTIGATION TWO: A correlational study using a Stroop test.

10 (a) (i)

State the aim of your correlational study. [2 marks]

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10 (a) (ii)

State the operationalised co-variables that you used in your investigation. [1 mark + 1 mark]

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10 (b)

Identify the sampling technique you used to recruit participants for your correlational study and justify your choice of sampling technique.

[1 mark + 2 marks]

(Turn over)

10 (c) (i)

Identify an appropriate graphical representation which could be drawn from the data you collected in your correlational study. [1 mark]

10 (c) (ii)

Identify the inferential statistic you used to analyse the data you collected for your correlational study. [1 mark]

10 (c) (iii)

Explain TWO reasons why the inferential statistic identified in 10 (c) (ii) was appropriate. [2 marks]

10 (d)

Explain ONE issue of validity which you considered in your correlational study and explain how you dealt with this issue. [4 marks]

[illegible]

**SECTION C – APPLICATION OF
RESEARCH METHODS TO A NOVEL
SCENARIO**

Answer ALL questions.

- 11. A researcher wanted to test the hypothesis that left-handed people are more creative than right-handed people. A quota sample of 100 students at university were asked to take part in an online investigation. The participants stated whether they were left-handed or right-handed and also which subjects they had chosen to study for their degree. Subjects such as Art and Photography were classified as ‘creative’ and subjects such as Mathematics and Science were classified as ‘non-creative’ by the researcher.**

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11 (a)

State an operationalised null hypothesis for this investigation.

[2 marks]

FIGURE 1: The number of students studying each subject type.

Handedness	Creative	Non-creative
Left	8	2
Right	34	56

11 (b)

The findings are shown opposite (FIGURE 1).

Identify an appropriate measure of central tendency for this data and explain why this measure is suitable for the data in FIGURE 1. [3 marks]

(Turn over)

FIGURE 2: Level of significance for a two-tailed test (non-directional hypothesis)

df	0.10	0.05	0.025	0.01
1	2.71	3.84	5.02	6.64
2	4.61	5.99	7.38	9.21
3	6.25	7.82	9.35	11.35
4	7.78	9.49	11.14	13.28
5	9.24	11.07	12.83	15.09

- 11 (c) The researcher carried out a Chi Square test and found an observed (calculated) value of 6.54. The degrees of freedom (df) was 2. Identify the appropriate critical value from FIGURE 2 opposite and explain why the psychologist should accept or reject the null hypothesis at $p < 0.05$. [3 marks]**

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- 12. A group of researchers wanted to investigate if adverts aimed at children promoted active or non-active play. They selected 50 adverts shown during children's TV programmes. Each researcher counted the main type of play seen in the advert. The data is displayed in FIGURE 3 below:**

FIGURE 3: Main types of play seen in the adverts.

Type of play	Number of times the type of play was seen
Running	14
Computer/ screen-based	26
Cycling	6
Art and Craft	4

(Turn over)

12 (a)

Identify the level of measurement of the data in this research. [1 mark]

12 (b)

Explain ONE issue of reliability with this investigation and how the researcher could have assessed the issue. [4 marks]

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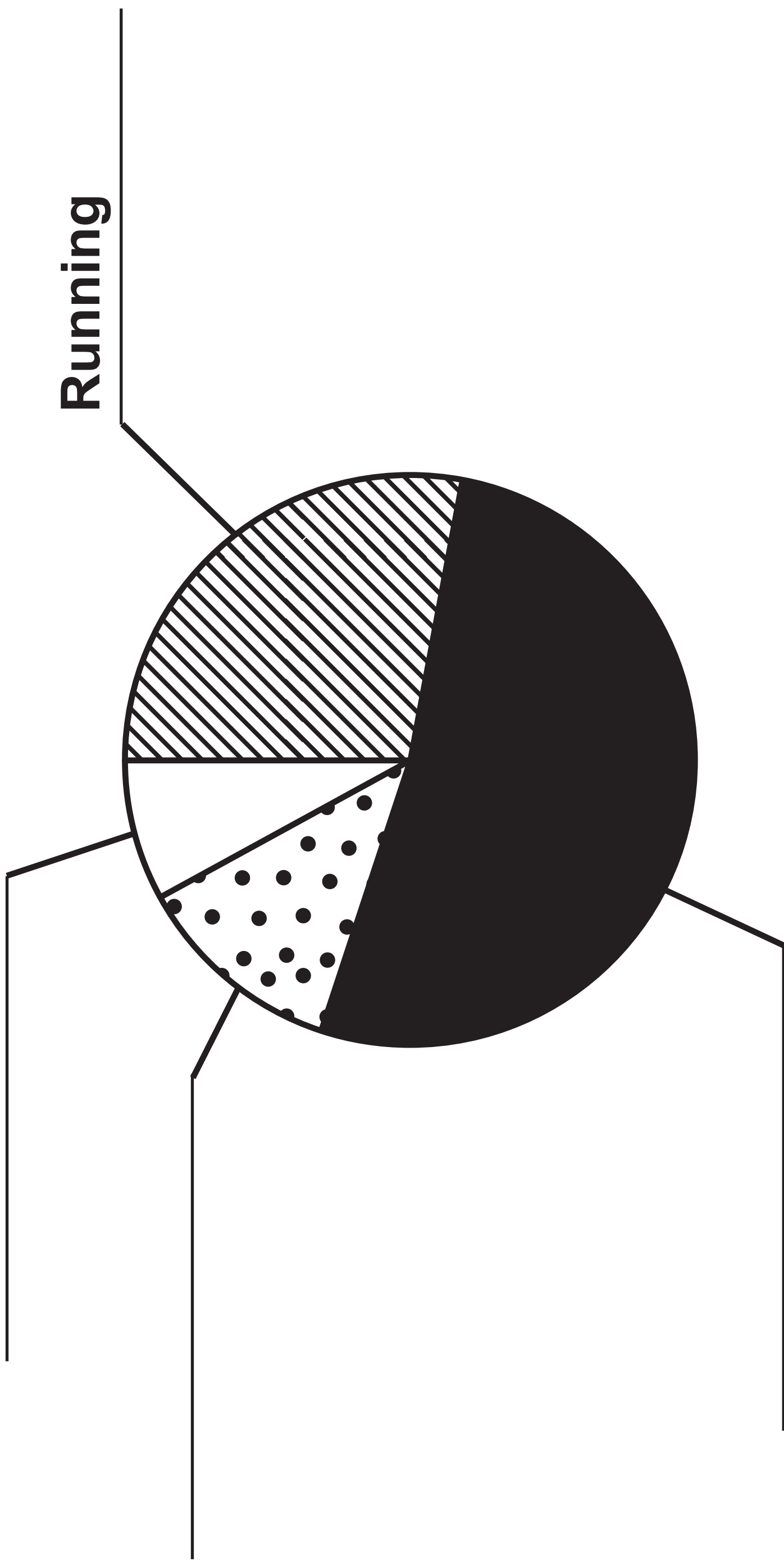
12 (c) (i)

Using Figure 3, calculate the percentage of adverts that contained computer / screen-based activity. Show your workings. [2 marks]

[illegible]

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FIGURE 4: Graphical representation of the proportion of adverts containing each type of play seen.



12 (c) (ii)

Identify the type of graphical representation used in FIGURE 4 opposite and then complete the labels of the three blank segments on FIGURE 4. [4 marks]

12 (c) (iii)

Apart from the type of graphical representation used in FIGURE 4, identify an alternative appropriate graphical representation that could be used to display the data in this research. [1 mark]

12 (d)

**Evaluate TWO disadvantages
of using qualitative data in
psychological research.**

[2 marks + 2 marks]

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(Turn over)

[illegible]

(Turn over)

[illegible]

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[illegible]

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