

Please write clearly in block capitals.

Centre Number

Candidate Number

Surname _____

Forename(s) _____

Candidate signature _____

A-level

PSYCHOLOGY

A-level topic mock · Based on AQA
Psychology

Paper 3 · Section D option ·

Aggression

2026

Time allowed: 1 hour

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- a black ink or black ball-point pen.

Instructions

- This paper is for **A-level only** — Aggression is a Paper 3 option topic, not assessed at AS.
- Use black ink or black ball-point pen. Fill in the boxes above.
- Answer **all** questions in the spaces provided. If you need extra space, use the lined pages at the end.
- Cross through any rough work you do not want marked.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets. This paper covers **Aggression** only (AQA spec 4.3.8).
- **Maximum mark: 48.** The paper includes an 8-mark essay (Q10) and a 16-mark essay (Q11).
- Answer in continuous prose. You will be assessed on use of good English, clear organisation and specialist vocabulary.

For Examiner's Use	
Question	Mark
01	
02	
03	
04	
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06	
07	
08	
09	
10	
11	
TOTAL	

Section D

Aggression

Answer all questions in this section.

0 1

Which one of the following hormones has been most strongly associated with **increased aggression**? Write A, B, C or D in your answer book.

- A Cortisol.
- B Testosterone.
- C Oxytocin.
- D Melatonin.

[1 mark]

0 2

Which one of the following best describes a **fixed action pattern**? Write A, B, C or D in your answer book.

- A A learned sequence of behaviour that varies between individuals.
- B A stereotyped, innate behaviour sequence triggered by a specific stimulus.
- C A reduced emotional response to repeated violence.
- D An aggressive response caused by being prevented from reaching a goal.

[1 mark]

0 3

Which one of the following best describes **de-individuation**? Write A, B, C or D in your answer book.

- A The gradual reduction in emotional response to repeated aggression.
- B Storing aggressive "scripts" in memory that are later triggered.
- C A loss of personal identity and reduced accountability in a group or crowd.
- D Imitating an aggressive role model who has been rewarded.

[1 mark]

0 4

Outline the role of **genetic factors** in aggression. Refer to the **MAOA gene** in your answer.

[3 marks]

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0 5

Ryan spends several hours a day playing violent video games in which players are rewarded with points for attacking and killing characters. His parents have noticed that he no longer seems shocked by violence on the news, and that he has recently started to react aggressively whenever he is frustrated.

Use your knowledge of **media influences on aggression** to explain Ryan's behaviour. Refer to **desensitisation, disinhibition and/or cognitive priming** in your answer.

[4 marks]

0 6

At Eastgate Prison, levels of violence between inmates are very high. Some staff argue that this is because the prison houses many inmates who were already violent and aggressive before they arrived. Other staff argue that it is the harsh, overcrowded conditions and the lack of meaningful activity within the prison that cause the aggression.

Use **dispositional and situational explanations** to explain the aggression at Eastgate Prison.

[4 marks]

0 7

Outline the **ethological explanation** of aggression. Refer to **innate releasing mechanisms** and **fixed action patterns** in your answer.

[4 marks]

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0 8

Briefly outline the **evolutionary explanation** of human aggression.

[3 marks]

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0 9

Outline **desensitisation, disinhibition and cognitive priming** as explanations of how the media influences aggression.

[3 marks]

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