

Please write clearly in block capitals.

Centre Number

Candidate Number

Surname _____

Forename(s) _____

Candidate signature _____

AS

PSYCHOLOGY

AS topic mock · Based on AQA
Psychology

Paper 2 · Section A focus paper ·
Approaches in Psychology

2026

Time allowed: 45 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- a black ink or black ball-point pen.

Instructions

- This paper is for **AS Psychology only**. The A-level version of this topic includes additional approaches (psychodynamic, humanistic) and comparison of approaches 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 **Approaches in Psychology** (AS, AQA spec 3.2.1).
- **Maximum mark: 36**. The longest essay (Q10) is worth 12 marks.
- 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	
05	
06	
07	
08	
09	
10	
TOTAL	

Section A

Approaches in Psychology

Answer all questions in this section.

0 1

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

- A Learning through observation and imitation of a role model.
- B Learning by association between a previously neutral stimulus and an unconditioned stimulus.
- C Learning through the consequences of behaviour, such as rewards and punishments.
- D Learning through internal cognitive processes such as attention and memory.

[1 mark]

0 2

Which one of the following is an example of **positive reinforcement**? Write A, B, C or D in your answer book.

- A A child stops touching the hot stove after being burned.
- B A teenager takes painkillers to remove a headache, and so takes them more often.
- C A dog is given a treat after sitting on command, and so sits on command more often.
- D A worker's phone is confiscated after they are rude, and so they are less rude in future.

[1 mark]

0 3

Which one of the following is a **mediational process** identified by Bandura's social learning theory? Write A, B, C or D in your answer book.

- A Unconditioned response.
- B Negative reinforcement.
- C Attention.
- D Genotype.

[1 mark]

0 4

Outline the role of **schema** in the cognitive approach. Use an example to support your answer.

[3 marks]

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0 5

10-year-old Olivia watches her older sister Maya tidy her bedroom. Their mother praises Maya enthusiastically, gives her a chocolate bar, and tells her she can have an extra hour on her tablet. Over the next few days, Olivia begins tidying her own bedroom without being asked, even though no one has spoken to her about it.

Use **social learning theory** to explain Olivia's behaviour. Refer to **vicarious reinforcement** and at least **one mediational process** in your answer.

[4 marks]

0 6

A research study compared the IQ scores of pairs of identical (monozygotic) twins who had been raised in different homes after being separated at birth. The researchers found that, on average, the IQ scores of these separated identical twins were very similar to each other — much more similar than would be expected by chance.

Use the **biological approach** to explain what these findings suggest about the genetic basis of intelligence. Refer to **genotype** and **phenotype** in your answer.

[4 marks]

0 7

Briefly explain the difference between **genotype** and **phenotype**. Use an example to support your answer.

[3 marks]

0 8

Briefly outline the difference between **classical conditioning** and **operant conditioning**. Use one example of each in your answer.

[3 marks]

0 9

Outline what is meant by **cognitive neuroscience**. Refer to one example of research that uses cognitive neuroscience in your answer.

[4 marks]
