

Please write clearly in block capitals.

Centre Number

Candidate Number

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Forename(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate signature \_\_\_\_\_

A-level

# PSYCHOLOGY

Paper 3 · Section A focus paper ·  
Issues and Debates

Topic mock · Based on AQA  
Psychology

2026

Time allowed: 1 hour

## Materials

For this paper you must have:

- a black ink or black ball-point pen.

## Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Fill in the boxes at the top of this page.
- Answer **all** questions.
- You must answer the questions in the spaces provided. Do not write outside the box around each page or on blank pages.
- If you need extra space for your answer(s), use the lined pages at the end of this book. Write the question number against your answer(s).
- Do all rough work in this book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

## Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is **48**.
- This paper covers **Issues and Debates in Psychology** only (AQA spec section 4.3.1).
- Questions should be answered in continuous prose. You will be assessed on your ability to:
  - use good English
  - organise information clearly
  - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

For Examiner's Use	
Question	Mark
01	
02	
03	
04	
05	
06	
07	
08	
09	
10	
11	
<b>TOTAL</b>	



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Section A

## Issues and Debates in Psychology

Answer all questions in this section.

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0 1

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

- A The tendency to ignore differences between groups.
- B The tendency to exaggerate differences between groups.
- C The tendency to study only individuals from one's own culture.
- D The tendency to treat male behaviour as the standard for all people.

[1 mark]

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0 2

Which one of the following is the clearest example of **environmental determinism**? Write A, B, C or D in your answer book.

- A A person develops depression because of low serotonin levels.
- B A person develops a phobia after being conditioned to associate dogs with a frightening experience.
- C A person makes a moral choice to behave selflessly.
- D A person inherits high intelligence from their parents.

[1 mark]

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0 3

Which one of the following best describes an **idiographic** approach to psychological investigation? Write A, B, C or D in your answer book.

- A Studying large samples in order to establish general laws of behaviour.
- B Studying individuals in depth without intending to establish general laws of behaviour.
- C Studying behaviour using only quantitative methods.
- D Studying behaviour using brain-imaging techniques such as fMRI.

[1 mark]

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0 4

Outline what is meant by **androcentrism** in psychology. Use an example to support your answer.

[3 marks]

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0 5

Briefly explain what is meant by **cultural relativism** and give one example of how it can be applied in psychology.

[3 marks]

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0 8

A government department is reviewing parental-leave policy. One adviser cites Bowlby's theory of maternal deprivation, arguing that mothers should be encouraged to stay at home with their children during the first two years of life because separation from the mother during this critical period causes lasting emotional damage.

Explain how this use of Bowlby's theory illustrates **social sensitivity** in psychological research.

[4 marks]

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Paper total: \_\_\_\_ / 48

END OF QUESTIONS