

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 C option ·

Schizophrenia

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** — Schizophrenia 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 **Schizophrenia** only (AQA spec 4.3.5).
- **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	
05	
06	
07	
08	
09	
10	
11	
TOTAL	

Section C

Schizophrenia

Answer all questions in this section.

0 1

Which one of the following is a **negative symptom** of schizophrenia? Write A, B, C or D in your answer book.

- A Hallucinations.
- B Delusions.
- C Avolition.
- D Disorganised speech.

[1 mark]

0 2

Which one of the following best describes **co-morbidity** as an issue in the diagnosis of schizophrenia? Write A, B, C or D in your answer book.

- A Two or more disorders occurring together in the same person.
- B Two clinicians independently reaching the same diagnosis.
- C The same symptom appearing in two different disorders.
- D Diagnosis rates differing between cultural groups.

[1 mark]

0 3

Which one of the following best describes the **original dopamine hypothesis** of schizophrenia? Write A, B, C or D in your answer book.

- A Schizophrenia is caused by abnormally low dopamine activity throughout the brain.
- B Schizophrenia is caused by an excess of dopamine activity in subcortical areas of the brain.
- C Schizophrenia is caused by enlarged ventricles and a loss of grey matter.
- D Schizophrenia is caused by abnormally low levels of serotonin in the synapse.

[1 mark]

0 4

Outline **genetics** as a biological explanation for schizophrenia.

[3 marks]

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0 7

Outline the **cognitive explanation** for schizophrenia. Refer to **dysfunctional thought processing** in your answer.

[4 marks]

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