Cambridge Assessment International Education

Cambridge International AS & A Level

PSYCHOLOGY **9990/42**

Paper 4 Specialist Options: Application **May/June 2020**

1 hour 30 minutes

3871129979

You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **four** questions in total:
  - Answer questions from **two** options.
    - Section A: answer **two** questions.
    - Section B: answer **one** question.
    - Section C: answer **one** question.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 60.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [ ].

This document has **8** pages. Blank pages are indicated.

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Section A

You must answer **two** questions from this section.
Answer all the parts for the two questions you choose.

Psychology and abnormality

1 The use of nalmefene, a biochemical treatment, is believed by Grant et al. (2008) to help reduce the urge to gamble. To test its effectiveness, participants were assessed to ensure they were suitable to participate. They were then randomly allocated to either a group receiving nalmefene or to a group receiving a placebo.

(a) Explain what is meant by the term 'placebo'. [2]

(b) Outline **two** testing procedures used to assess participants' gambling severity in the study by Grant et al. (2008). [4]

(c) Give **two** reasons why this assessment excluded some participants from the study. [4]

(d) Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of using biochemicals to treat gambling disorder. You should include a conclusion in your answer. [5]

Psychology and consumer behaviour

2 From the study by Robson et al. (2011) on consumers' responses to table spacing in restaurants:

Comparison of survey items by table spacing: Privacy

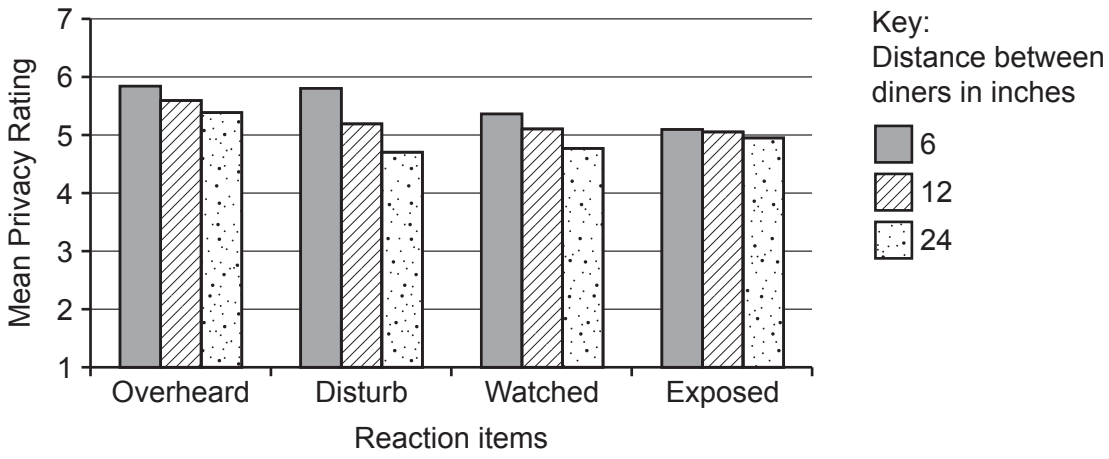


Fig. 2.1

(a) Identify **two** features of the questionnaire used in the study by Robson et al. (2011). [2]

(b) Give **two** findings from the data in Fig. 2.1. [4]

(c) Suggest **two** ways that could be used to collect data about the effect of table spacing in restaurants, other than a questionnaire. [4]

(d) Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of using internet-based questionnaires to gather data about the effect of table spacing in restaurants. You should include a conclusion in your answer. [5]

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Psychology and health

3 Poor adherence in asthma patients has been associated with more wheezing and more frequent need for hospitalisations. Patients with the most severe asthma appear to have worse adherence than other asthma patients. The study by Sherman et al. (2000) was conducted to investigate whether telephoning the patient's pharmacy to obtain a prescription refill history gathers accurate information about medication-taking behaviour.

(a) Explain how the participants were selected for the study by Sherman et al. (2000). [2]

(b) Give **one** strength and **one** weakness of selecting the participants in this way. [4]

(c) **(i)** Suggest **one** way in which data on adherence could be gathered, other than by using pharmacy records. [2]

(ii) Suggest **one** advantage of the way to gather data that you suggested in **(c)(i)**. [2]

(d) Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of using pharmacy records to gather data on adherence to taking medication. You should include a conclusion in your answer. [5]

Psychology and organisations

4 The Minnesota satisfaction questionnaire (MSQ) measures satisfaction with the work environment. The long version takes 15–20 minutes to complete, using 100 satisfaction items. It is easy to read and Weiss et al. (1967) say it is both reliable and valid. It can be completed as a postal questionnaire or in an interview setting.

(a) Explain how Weiss et al. (1967) know the MSQ is reliable. [2]

(b) **(i)** Give **two** MSQ satisfaction items. [2]

(ii) Suggest **one** problem that would arise if the questionnaire took longer than 20 minutes to complete. [2]

(c) Suggest **two** disadvantages of using a five-point scale, using an example from the MSQ. [4]

(d) Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of using postal questionnaires to gather data about work satisfaction. You should include a conclusion in your answer. [5]

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Section B

You must answer **one** question from this section.

Psychology and abnormality

5 **(a)** Design an experiment to investigate the effectiveness of covert sensitisation for treating kleptomania. [10]

(b) Explain the psychological and methodological evidence on which your experiment is based. [8]

Psychology and consumer behaviour

6 **(a)** Design a study to investigate whether males are 'raider' type shoppers and females are 'explorer' type shoppers. [10]

(b) Explain the psychological and methodological evidence on which your study is based. [8]

Psychology and health

7 **(a)** Design a study to investigate age differences in the disclosure of medical information to a health practitioner. [10]

(b) Explain the psychological and methodological evidence on which your study is based. [8]

Psychology and organisations

8 **(a)** Design a study to investigate how colour of lighting in a factory affects productivity level. [10]

(b) Explain the psychological and methodological evidence on which your study is based. [8]

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Section C

You must answer **one** question from this section.

Psychology and abnormality

9 *'Telephone-administered cognitive-behavioural therapy (CBT) to treat obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) will never be as effective as face-to-face treatment.'*

To what extent do you agree with this statement? Use examples of research you have studied to support your answer. [12]

Psychology and consumer behaviour

10 *'Satisficing is the only model needed to explain consumer decision-making.'*

To what extent do you agree with this statement? Use examples of research you have studied to support your answer. [12]

Psychology and health

11 *'It does not matter whether patients understand the medical terms their doctor uses. In order to get better, they just have to do what their doctor tells them.'*

To what extent do you agree with this statement? Use examples of research you have studied to support your answer. [12]

Psychology and organisations

12 *'The two-factor theory of job satisfaction is too reductionist to be useful.'*

To what extent do you agree with this statement? Use examples of research you have studied to support your answer. [12]

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