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Cambridge Assessment International Education

Cambridge International AS & A Level

CANDIDATE NAME

CENTRE NUMBER

CANDIDATE NUMBER

8899551430

PSYCHOLOGY **9990/23**

Paper 2 Research Methods **May/June 2025**

1 hour 30 minutes

You must answer on the question paper.

No additional materials are needed.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **all** questions.
- Use a black or dark blue pen. You may use an HB pencil for any diagrams or graphs.
- Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the boxes at the top of the page.
- Write your answer to each question in the space provided.
- Do **not** use an erasable pen or correction fluid.
- Do **not** write on any bar codes.

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 **12** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

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Section A

Answer **all** questions.

1 **(a)** Outline the ethical guideline of 'confidentiality'.

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..... [1]

(b) Explain **one** way that the ethical guideline of confidentiality was followed in the study by Dement and Kleitman (sleep and dreams).

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..... [2]

2 Cognitive psychologists sometimes study people's recall of past events.

(a) Outline what is meant by 'subjectivity'.

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..... [1]

(b) Suggest how subjectivity could be a problem when studying people's recall of past events.

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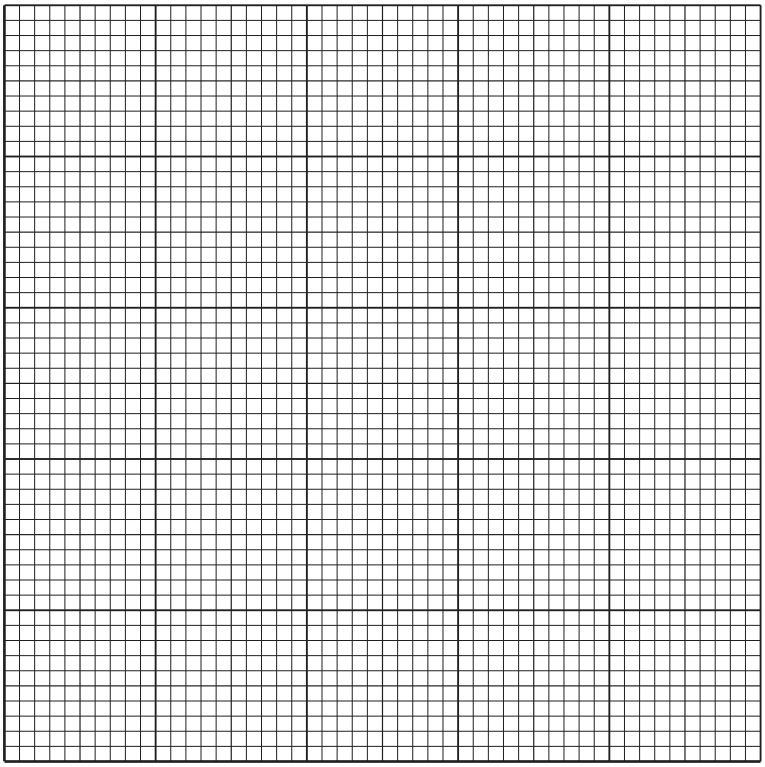
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3 A study tested the relationship between average number of hours of sleep per night and physical health. The participants slept in their own homes. The results showed a positive correlation.

(a) Sketch a graph to show the results of this study. You **must** label the axes.



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[3]

(b) Suggest **two** problems with collecting data about the number of hours of sleep in this study.

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4 An investigation is testing the hypothesis that, 'intelligence affects obedience'.

State whether this is a directional or a non-directional hypothesis. Justify your answer.

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5 In the study by Bandura et al. (aggression), a sample of children was recruited from a university nursery. The sampling technique is not stated.

Suggest why Bandura et al. may **not** have used volunteer sampling.

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6 Describe structured interviews and semi-structured interviews, using any example(s).

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7 Dr Jones is conducting a case study of a man, Kevan, who has been practising mindfulness for 10 years.

(a) Suggest **two** questions that Dr Jones could use in a self-report (questionnaire or interview) that would investigate different features of Kevan's mindfulness.

1 .....

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2 .....

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[2]

(b) Dr Jones wants to investigate whether Kevan has changed in any ways that could be linked to his mindfulness. He plans to interview Kevan's friends.

(i) Suggest **two** changes in Kevan that his friends could observe. These changes **must** be behavioural, emotional or cognitive.

1 .....

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[2]

(ii) Explain why **one** of the changes that you suggested in part **(b)(i)** would be difficult to investigate.

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(c) Dr Jones has several different questions on his self-report that he has used repeatedly with a similar case. He has identified two problems:

- Problem 1: when he studies the responses to one item, he discovers that there are several different ways to interpret the answers.
- Problem 2: he is concerned that another item, which was supposed to measure mindfulness, is measuring happiness instead.

(i) Explain which problem relates to reliability.

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(ii) Explain which problem relates to validity.

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8 Dr Mohan has proposed a study using monkeys in a laboratory. A colleague has two suggestions to make the study more ethical:

- suggestion 1: using animals which have less complex brains
- suggestion 2: using videos of the animals' behaviour in their natural habitat.

(a) Explain why suggestion 1 would make Dr Mohan's study more ethical.

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(b) Explain why suggestion 2 would make Dr Mohan's study more ethical.

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9 Kioni is conducting a longitudinal study. Her aim is to study changes in preferred personal space throughout her participants' lives.

(a) Kioni is deciding how frequently throughout her participants' lives she should test them.

Suggest a suitable frequency for Kioni to use to test her participants throughout their lives.

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(b) Suggest **one** way for Kioni to re-contact her participants each time she needs to test them.

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(c) **(i)** Describe **one** way that Kioni could measure personal space.

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(ii) For the way you described in part **(c)(i)**:

Suggest **one** strength of measuring personal space in this way.

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(d) Kioni is concerned that there may be variables other than age that could affect an individual's personal space preferences.

(i) Suggest **two** variables that could affect an individual's preferred personal space, other than age and gender.

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(ii) For **one** of the variables that you suggested in part **(d)(i)**:

Suggest how this variable could affect an individual's preferred personal space.

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Section B

Answer **all** questions.

10 Isla is a teacher. She thinks that allowing students to play with an object in class will improve attention. Isla is unsure whether it will be better to play with a pen or play with a different object that is not used for writing.

(a) Describe how Isla could conduct an experiment to test whether attention is better if students can play with a pen or play with an object that is not used for writing.

Do **not** describe sample / sampling technique or ethical issues / guidelines in your answer.

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(b) For **one** feature of the experiment you have described in part **(a)**:

(i) Explain why that feature is a strength of the study.

Do **not** refer to sampling or ethics in your answer.

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(ii) Explain how that feature could be a weakness of the study.

Do **not** refer to sampling or ethics in your answer.

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