



Victorian Certificate of Education
2023

Name: _____

Teacher's name: _____

STUDENT NUMBER

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Letter

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PSYCHOLOGY

Unit 1 Written examination

2023

Reading time: 15 minutes

Writing time: 1 hour 40 minutes

QUESTION AND ANSWER BOOK

Structure of book

Section	Number of questions	Number of questions to be answered	Number of marks
A	35	35	35
B	6	6	45
			Total 80

- Students are permitted to bring into the examination room: pens, pencils, highlighters, erasers, sharpeners, and rulers.
- Students are NOT permitted to bring into the examination room: blank sheets of paper and/or correction fluid/tape.
- No calculator is allowed in this examination.

Materials supplied

- Question and answer book.
- Answer sheet for multiple-choice questions.
- Additional space is available at the end of the book if you need extra space to complete an answer.

Instructions

- Write your student number in the space provided above on this page.
- Check that your name on your answer sheet for multiple-choice questions is correct.
- All written responses must be in English.

At the end of the examination

- Place the answer sheet for multiple-choice questions inside the front cover of this book.

Students are NOT permitted to bring mobile phones and/or any other unauthorised electronic devices into the examination room.

SECTION A – Multiple-choice questions**Instructions for Section A**

Answer **all** questions in pencil on the answer sheet provided for multiple-choice questions.

Choose the response that is **correct** or that **best answers** the question.

A correct answer scores 1; an incorrect answer scores 0.

Marks will **not** be deducted for incorrect answers.

No marks will be given if more than one answer is completed for any question.

Question 1

The genetic traits that are passed on to a child from both parents (e.g. eye colour) are examples of

- A. heredity.
- B. nurture.
- C. environmental influences.
- D. psychological development.

Question 2

External factors, such as education and an individual's local community, can influence psychological development. These factors can be

- A. biological, psychological or social factors.
- B. psychological and social but not biological factors.
- C. psychological factors only.
- D. social factors only.

Question 3

Which of the following are valid examples of each type of psychological development?

	Emotional	Cognitive	Social
A.	crying when you hurt your knee	forming a secure attachment	going to a friend's birthday party
B.	controlling your temper when upset	remembering how to multiply numbers	developing a romantic relationship
C.	learning to play an instrument	making a new friend at school	playing with stuffed toys
D.	hugging a friend when they are sad	using logical reasoning to solve a problem	going through puberty

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

Use the following information to answer Questions 4 – 6.

Remi is two years old and has been taken into an unfamiliar room with her mother. Remi is feeling safe and happy because she is with her mother and is happy to explore the room. Shortly after, her mother exits the room, leaving Remi alone. Remi becomes scared and begins to cry. She runs to the door and continues to cry.

Question 4

What is the name of this experiment?

- A. the secure attachment experiment
- B. the strange situation experiment
- C. the avoidance test
- D. the emotional development experiment

Question 5

When the mother returns, Remi continues to cry and cannot be comforted. She does not want to continue exploring the room and squirms to get out of her mother's arms. It appears that Remi has developed

- A. a secure attachment.
- B. an insecure avoidant attachment.
- C. an insecure resistant attachment.
- D. an insecure sensitive attachment.

Question 6

Which of the following outlines Remi's emotional response when her mother left the room?

	Subjective feeling	Expressed behaviour	Physiological response
A.	crying	heart racing	scared
B.	scared	crying	heart racing
C.	sad	heart racing	crying
D.	heart racing	crying	sad

Use the following information to answer Questions 7 and 8.

Stella takes her toy rabbit to childcare with her because she does not want it to feel lonely being left at home by itself.

Question 7

Stella is demonstrating the cognitive thinking style of

- A. egocentrism.
- B. animism.
- C. classification.
- D. symbolic thinking.

Question 8

It appears that Stella is _____ years old and in the _____ stage of cognitive development.

- A. two to four; sensorimotor
- B. two to four; pre-operational
- C. five to eight; pre-operational
- D. five to eight; sensorimotor

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

Use the following information to answer Questions 9 – 12.

Dr Gray is conducting a study to observe the psychosocial changes to 65 infants who are born in a local hospital. Participants will be interviewed throughout their lives at each of Erikson's eight stages of psychosocial development to discover biological, psychological and social impacts on their development. Observations of their behaviour within and outside the laboratory will also occur.

Question 9

What type of study is being conducted when Dr Gray makes observations outside of the laboratory?

- A. product development
- B. fieldwork
- C. literature review
- D. simulation

Question 10

Four years into Dr Gray's study, participants were asked a range of questions about 'what is right and wrong,' with the children discussing rules and ranking behaviours on a scale from one ('naughty behaviour') to five ('nice behaviour'). The children were also observed interacting with a range of toys to see how they plan and coordinate their play. What stage of Erikson's psychosocial development would these children most likely be in?

- A. trust vs mistrust
- B. autonomy vs shame and doubt
- C. initiative vs guilt
- D. industry vs inferiority

Question 11

What type of data was likely being collected by Dr Gray?

	Observing play	Ranking behaviours
A.	qualitative	quantitative
B.	quantitative	qualitative
C.	qualitative	qualitative
D.	quantitative	quantitative

Question 12

What is a limitation of collecting observational data?

- A. it can help to mimic real-world scenarios
- B. it is time-consuming
- C. it must be conducted in an unusual group setting for the data to be accurate
- D. it is unethical as it breaches confidentiality

Use the following information to answer Questions 13 and 14.

Whilst travelling around Japan, Kate noticed that people rarely made eye contact with her and she thought that this was quite rude. Later that day, she met up with a friend who informed her that it is sometimes considered to be more respectful to avoid eye contact in Japan.

Question 13

Which of the following is not a reason for why making eye contact is considered atypical?

- A. it does not follow the social norms of Japan
- B. the cultural upbringing of Japanese people
- C. avoiding eye contact is statistically common in Japan
- D. eye contact is maladaptive and can cause personal distress

Question 14

For the rest of Kate's time in Japan, she wanted to be respectful and tried to ensure that she did not maintain constant eye-contact when she was in conversation with others. This is an example of

- A. atypical behaviour.
- B. adaptive behaviour.
- C. maladaptive behaviour.
- D. atypical development.

Use the following information to answer Questions 15 and 16.

Ollie has recently been diagnosed with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Two of Ollie's main issues are his inability to sit still and constant fidgeting. Ollie is allowed to have a stress ball and fidget spinner when he is in class.

Question 15

~~The signs of ADHD that are identified here can be referred to as~~

- ~~A. inattentiveness.~~
- ~~B. hyperactivity.~~
- ~~C. impulsivity.~~
- ~~D. all of the above.~~

Question 16

~~Ollie was born six weeks premature. This is a _____ risk factor that is believed to contribute to the development of ADHD.~~

- ~~A. biological~~
- ~~B. psychological~~
- ~~C. social~~
- ~~D. atypical~~

Question 17

~~Patricia has difficulty reading fluently and struggles to distinguish between the sounds of different words. She also gets confused between the letters 'b' and 'd.' Patricia most likely has~~

- ~~A. autism spectrum disorder.~~
- ~~B. ADHD.~~
- ~~C. dyslexia.~~
- ~~D. an intellectual disability.~~

Question 18

The majority of grey matter can be found in the

- A. cerebral cortex.
- B. corpus callosum.
- C. brain stem.
- D. thalamus.

Question 19

~~The pseudoscientific study of the relationship between the bumpy surface of the skull and a person's behavioural characteristics is known as~~

- ~~A. brain ablation.~~
- ~~B. mind-body dualism.~~
- ~~C. electrical stimulation of the brain.~~
- ~~D. phrenology.~~

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

Use the following information to answer Questions 20 and 21.

Yuichi is a healthy adult with an intact brain. He was asked to stare at a dot in the centre of a computer screen. Whilst doing so, an image of a rabbit was presented on the left side of the screen and an image of a squirrel was presented on the right side of the screen simultaneously.

Question 20

Which animal(s) would Yuichi be able to say he saw?

- A. the squirrel
- B. the rabbit
- C. both the squirrel and the rabbit
- D. neither the squirrel nor the rabbit

Question 21

The image of the rabbit was presented to _____ and was initially sent to the _____ hemisphere of the brain.

- A. the left eye; left
- B. the right eye; right
- C. both eyes; left
- D. both eyes; right

Use the following information to answer Questions 22 – 24.

Julius had a motorcycle accident that resulted in an acquired brain injury with damage to the left side of his cerebral cortex.

Question 22

Julius was taken for a neuroimaging scan to observe his functioning brain. Which technique would show the functioning brain?

- A. PET
- B. MRI
- C. CT scan
- D. X-ray

Question 23

Which of the following signs would be the least likely to be shown several weeks after Julius' accident?

- A. difficulty controlling movements on the left side of his body
- B. difficulty solving mathematical equations
- C. difficulty speaking fluently
- D. difficulty planning and making logical decisions

Question 24

After his accident, Julius needed to relearn how to write his name. Over time, with practice, Julius was able to write his name again. Which process of neuroplasticity was most likely involved in allowing Julius to write his name again?

- A. destruction of new neural pathways
- B. sprouting of dendrites to form new synaptic connections
- C. dendritic myelination resulting in faster neural messaging
- D. regeneration of damaged neuronal cell bodies

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

Question 25

Identify the correct location for the following brain structures.

	Hindbrain	Midbrain	Forebrain
A.	cerebellum	thalamus	cerebral cortex
B.	brain stem	hypothalamus	cerebellum
C.	medulla	cerebral cortex	substantia nigra
D.	pons	substantia nigra	hypothalamus

Use the following information to answer Questions 26 and 27.

Grandpa Barry was sitting on the couch, reading a book, when he noticed that one side of his face felt numb. He turned to tell his partner, but his speech was slurred.

Question 26

It appears that Barry was experiencing

- A. dyslexia.
- B. epilepsy.
- C. chronic traumatic encephalopathy.
- D. a stroke.

Question 27

Following this incident, Grandpa Barry now has difficulty producing fluent speech and is quick to anger. Barry's partner says that he seems to be a completely different person now. It appears that Barry has had damage to his

- A. Wernicke's area.
- B. parietal lobe.
- C. frontal lobe.
- D. medulla.

Use the following information to answer Questions 28 – 30.

Matthew and his brother David were playing a game of tennis. Matthew served the ball and hit it using his right hand. The ball then hit David's left ankle, causing his leg to swell and bruise.

Question 28

The area of Matthew's brain that initiated the hit of the ball was his

- A. left frontal lobe.
- B. left parietal lobe.
- C. right frontal lobe.
- D. right parietal lobe.

Question 29

The area of David's brain that received the pain response from his ankle was his

- A. left frontal lobe.
- B. left parietal lobe.
- C. right frontal lobe.
- D. right parietal lobe.

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

Question 30

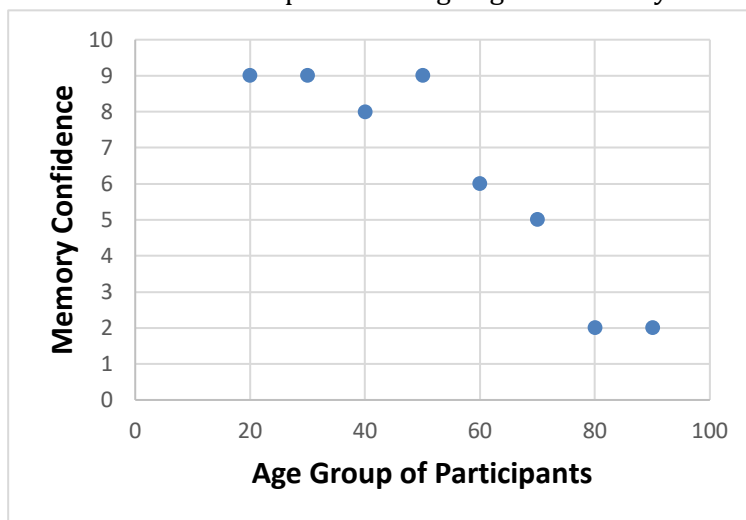
Matthew is a well-coordinated tennis player who is very agile and capable of returning tricky shots. Which part of Matthew's brain would be primarily responsible for coordinating his movements?

- A. the cerebellum
- B. the thalamus
- C. the primary auditory cortex
- D. the corpus callosum

Use the following information to answer Questions 31 and 32.

A research psychologist was looking at the relationship between ageing and memory confidence. Participants were stratified by their corresponding decade (e.g. a 33-year-old participant was assigned to the 'thirties' group, a 65-year-old participant was assigned to the 'sixties' group, etc.). He then asked them to rate their confidence in remembering a list of items, from zero ('not at all confident') to ten ('extremely confident').

The following graph shows the relationship between ageing and memory confidence.

**Question 31**

What type of methodology was used by the research psychologist?

- A. literature review
- B. correlational study
- C. within subjects design
- D. mixed design

Question 32

The results of the research psychologist's study show that

- A. ageing causes people to lose confidence in their memory.
- B. there is a positive correlation between increased age and memory confidence.
- C. there appears to be a relationship between falling confidence in memory abilities and increased age.
- D. there appears to be no relationship between ageing and memory confidence.

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

Question 33

A toddler crawls over to a hairbrush. He holds it up to his head and asks, "Hello?" Which type of development and which type of adaptation is demonstrated by the toddler?

	Type of development	Type of adaptation
A.	emotional development	assimilation
B.	emotional development	accommodation
C.	cognitive development	assimilation
D.	cognitive development	accommodation

Question 34

Which of the following is most important for survival functions, such as breathing, swallowing and heartbeat?

- A. the forebrain
- B. the midbrain
- C. the hindbrain
- D. the reticular formation

Question 35

Which of the following statements about Harlow's monkeys is correct?

- A. the dependent variable was whether the surrogate mother was a cloth-covered or wire surrogate
- B. the infant monkeys would seek comfort from the wire surrogate mother even if it did not provide milk
- C. the infant monkeys would seek comfort from the cloth-covered surrogate mother even if it did not provide milk
- D. the infant monkeys would spend most time clinging to whichever surrogate mother that provided milk

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SECTION B**Instructions for Section B**

Answer **all** questions in the spaces provided.

Question 1 (6 marks)

Mitchell has above-average intelligence. He is currently studying to become a doctor. Both of his parents are doctors and he was sent to one of the most prestigious secondary schools in Melbourne.

- a.** What is the nature versus nurture debate? Identify two reasons for Mitchell's higher intelligence that supports the nurture side of the debate. 3 marks

- b.** According to Jean Piaget's theory of cognitive development, what stage of development would Mitchell be in? Explain two key cognitive accomplishments that would indicate that someone has reached this stage. 3 marks

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Question 2 (7 marks)

~~Lucy has recently been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder.~~

- a.** ~~Outline the difference between neurotypicality and neurodivergence. Provide a reason why autism spectrum disorder is considered to be neurodivergent.~~

3 marks

- b.** ~~Identify a social interaction issue and a social communication issue that Lucy may face due to having autism spectrum disorder.~~

2 marks

- c.** ~~Lucy's psychiatrist has prescribed medication for her. Explain two differences between a psychiatrist and a psychologist.~~

2 marks

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Question 3 (12 marks)

Dr Randall is conducting research into CTE. Dr Randall is testing the memory of AFL players who have experienced concussions, comparing their results to players who have not been concussed. Dr Randall selected 45 AFL players who have had more than two concussions in the past year as well as 45 AFL players who have never been concussed to participate in the study.

All participants will be shown 15 images on a screen and must recall as many items as possible in one minute.

- a.** What is CTE? 2 marks

- b.** Identify the population and sample in Dr Randall's study and explain the difference between the two. 3 marks

- c.** Identify the independent and dependent variables of Dr Randall's study. 2 marks

IV:

DV:

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- d.** Write a research hypothesis for Dr Randall's study.

3 marks

- e.** Define random allocation and explain why it is not appropriate for Dr Randall's study.

2 marks

Question 4 (6 marks)

In 1848, Phineas Gage was a construction worker on a new railway track when he was involved in an accident where a metal rod penetrated through his cheek and exited via the top of his skull. Phineas Gage survived this injury; however, he acquired serious damage to his frontal lobe. After this incident, Phineas suffered from an array of symptoms.

Phineas changed from being a well-liked and friendly man to an apathetic, aggressive man who was struggled to maintain relationships with others. He often had a blank expression on his face and would have minimal eye or head movement. Phineas became isolated and disliked. Phineas also had a drop in IQ and had difficulty paying attention. He lost his job as a supervisor and struggled to carry out any planned or goal-directed behaviours.

Source: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/phineas-gage-neurosciences-most-famous-patient-11390067/>

- a. Phineas Gage is a well-known example of a case study. Explain what a case study is. 1 mark

- b. What are two limitations of case studies? 2 marks

- c. Identify one biological, one psychological and one social change to Phineas' functioning experienced after the accident. 3 marks

Biological:

Psychological:

Social:

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

Question 5 (4 marks)

What is the difference between experience-expectant plasticity and experience-dependent plasticity? Provide an example of something that may be learnt as a result of each type of plasticity.

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Question 6 (10 marks)

Andrea is a 13-year-old girl who was kept imprisoned in the basement of her house by her parents for her entire life. The cruel, neglectful parents were found and imprisoned, and Andrea is now free.

Since her release, psychologists have noticed that Andrea behaves like a typical four-year-old, has not developed many verbal skills, and cannot write. She also refuses to be parted from an old soft teddy bear that she cuddles for comfort whenever she is scared. Andrea rocks herself to sleep and bursts out laughing at random times during the day. She also needs to wear nappies as she has never used a toilet before.

Analyse this case study including:

- an explanation as to why Andrea has had a delay in cognitive development, with reference to critical and sensitive periods,
- an explanation as to why Andrea refuses to part with her teddy bear with reference to Harry Harlow's findings on attachment,
- an explanation as to why Andrea's behaviours are considered atypical, with reference to social norms and statistical rarity.

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END OF QUESTION AND ANSWER BOOK

Clearly number all responses in this space.

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VCE Unit 1 PSYCHOLOGY

Written Examination

ANSWER SHEET – 2023

Student
name:

Use a **PENCIL** for **ALL** entries. For each question, shade the box which indicates your answer.

Marks will **NOT** be deducted for incorrect answers.

NO MARK will be given if more than **ONE** answer is completed for any question.

If you make a mistake, **ERASE** the incorrect answer – **DO NOT** cross it out.

1	A	B	C	D
2	A	B	C	D
3	A	B	C	D
4	A	B	C	D
5	A	B	C	D
6	A	B	C	D
7	A	B	C	D
8	A	B	C	D
9	A	B	C	D
10	A	B	C	D
11	A	B	C	D
12	A	B	C	D

13	A	B	C	D
14	A	B	C	D
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20	A	B	C	D
21	A	B	C	D
22	A	B	C	D
23	A	B	C	D
24	A	B	C	D

25	A	B	C	D
26	A	B	C	D
27	A	B	C	D
28	A	B	C	D
29	A	B	C	D
30	A	B	C	D
31	A	B	C	D
32	A	B	C	D
33	A	B	C	D
34	A	B	C	D
35	A	B	C	D