

Advance information June 2022

AS Psychology 7181

Version 1.0

Because of the ongoing impacts of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, we are providing advance information on the focus of June 2022 exams to help students revise.

This is the advance information for AS Psychology 7181.

Information

- This advance information covers all examined components.
- There is no advance information for the assessment of Research Methods throughout the papers or in Section C Paper 7181/2, due to the integrated nature of the research methods content.
- For each paper the list shows the major focus of the content of the exam.
- It is **not** permitted to take this advance information into the exam.

Advice

- The aim should still be to cover all specification content in teaching and learning.
- Students and teachers should consider how to focus their revision of other non-listed parts of the specification, for example to review whether other topics may provide knowledge which helps understanding in relation to the areas being tested in 2022.
- Students will be expected to draw on knowledge, skills and understanding from across the specification when responding to synoptic questions and extended writing.
- Students will be credited for using any relevant knowledge from any non-listed topic areas when answering questions.

Focus of the June 2022 exam

7181/1 Paper 1: Introductory topics in Psychology

3.1.1 Social influence

- Conformity to social roles as investigated by Zimbardo.
- Explanations for obedience: agentic state and legitimacy of authority, and situational variables affecting obedience including proximity and location, as investigated by Milgram, and uniform. Dispositional explanation for obedience: the Authoritarian Personality.
- Minority influence including reference to consistency, commitment and flexibility.
- The role of social influence processes in social change.

3.1.2 Memory

- The multi-store model of memory: sensory register, short-term memory and long-term memory. Features of each store: coding, capacity and duration.
- Explanations for forgetting: proactive and retroactive interference and retrieval failure due to absence of cues.

3.1.3 Attachment

- Animal studies of attachment: Lorenz and Harlow.
- Explanations of attachment: learning theory and Bowlby's monotropic theory. The concepts of a critical period and an internal working model.
- Ainsworth's 'Strange Situation'. Types of attachment: secure, insecure-avoidant and insecure-resistant. Cultural variations in attachment, including van Ijzendoorn.
- Bowlby's theory of maternal deprivation. Romanian orphan studies: effects of institutionalisation.

7181/2 Paper 2: Psychology in context

3.2.1 Approaches in Psychology

The basic assumptions of the following approaches:

- Learning approaches: i) the behaviourist approach, including classical conditioning and Pavlov's research, operant conditioning, types of reinforcement and Skinner's research; ii) social learning theory including imitation, identification, modelling, vicarious reinforcement, the role of mediational processes and Bandura's research.
- The cognitive approach: the study of internal mental processes, the role of schema, the use of theoretical and computer models to explain and make inferences about mental processes. The emergence of cognitive neuroscience.

3.2.1.1 Biopsychology

- The structure and function of sensory, relay and motor neurons. The process of synaptic transmission, including reference to neurotransmitters, excitation and inhibition.
- The fight or flight response including the role of adrenaline.

3.2.2 Psychopathology

- Definitions of abnormality, including deviation from social norms, failure to function adequately, statistical infrequency and deviation from ideal mental health.
- The behavioural, emotional and cognitive characteristics of phobias, depression and obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD).
- The behavioural approach to explaining and treating phobias: the two-process model, including classical and operant conditioning; systematic desensitisation, including relaxation and use of hierarchy; flooding.
- The cognitive approach to explaining and treating depression: Beck's negative triad and Ellis's ABC model; cognitive behaviour therapy (CBT), including challenging irrational thoughts.

3.2.3 Research methods – No advance information provided.

END OF ADVANCE INFORMATION