

Answers and commentary: Extended writing questions student examples directory

This booklet provides information about where you can find a wide range of marked student extended writing responses.

Answers and commentary: Extended writing questions [16-mark /8-mark answers]

Exemplars are available for all topics on the 7182 specification.

The Answers and Commentaries are located in Centre Services:

[\(AQA | Contact us | Secure services | Centre Services: our secure extranet\)](#)

To find the resource you want, use the following filters:

- Resources/Assessment and training/Subjects/Psychology/AS and A-level/Assessment material/Answers and Commentary.
- Select the Answer and Commentary by **topic** you are looking for, in the 2021 set of files available.

For each question, a high, middle and low response example is provided.

The mark scheme and examiner report for each question can also be located in Centre Services (assessment materials)

Paper 1 : Introductory topics in Psychology

Topic	Year	Page	Question	Summary
Social Influence	2020	12	Q4	Discuss the legitimacy of authority and agentic state explanations of obedience. Refer to Freddie's behaviour in your answer. [16 marks]
Memory	2019	12	Q8	Discuss the multi-store model of memory. Refer to the information above in your answer. [16 marks]
Attachment	2018	13	Q12	Discuss the learning theory of attachment and Bowlby's monotropic theory of attachment. Refer to the conversation above in you answer.[16 marks] Full mark example available
Psychopathology	2018	11	Q12	Discuss the cognitive approach to treating depression. [16 marks]

Paper 2: Psychology in context

Topic	Year	Page	Question	Summary
Approaches	2020	13	Q5	Describe and evaluate operant conditioning as a way of explaining people's behaviour. Refer to Alison's approach to reducing plastic waste in your answer. [16 marks]
Bio-Psychology	2017	5	Q9	Outline and evaluate one or more ways of studying the brain. [8 marks] Full mark example available
	2020	19	Q11	Outline and evaluate split brain research. [8 marks] Full mark example available

Paper 3: Issues and options in Psychology

Topic	Year	Page	Question	Summary
Issues and debates	2019	12	Q4	Discuss the nature nurture debate in Psychology. [16 marks]
Relationships	2018	5	Q11	Discuss the attachment theory explanation for parasocial relationships. Refer to the likely findings of the study above in your answer. [8 marks] Full mark example available
	2019	10	Q5	Outline and briefly discuss the relationship between sexual selection and human reproductive behavior. [8 marks]
	2019	15	Q6	Describe and evaluate the social exchange theory of romantic relationships. [16 marks]
Gender	2018	5	Q16	Discuss Bem's research into androgyny. Refer to the likely findings of the study above in your answer. [8 marks] Full mark example available
	2019	16	Q8	Describe and evaluate Kohlberg's explanation for gender development. [16 marks]

Topic	Year	Page	Question	Summary
Cognition and Development	2018	4	Q21	Discuss Vygotsky's theory of cognitive development. Refer to the likely findings of the study above in your answer. [8 marks] Full mark example available
	2019	10	Q9	Outline and briefly discuss the role of the mirror neuron system in social cognition. [8 marks]
	2019	14	Q10	Describe and evaluate Piaget's research in relation to the pre-operational stage of intellectual development. [16 marks]
Schizophrenia	2018	13	Q25	Discuss one or more biological explanations for schizophrenia. [16 marks]
Stress	2018	9	Q33	Discuss the role of stress in illness. [16 marks] Full mark example available
Eating behavior	2018	10	Q29	Discuss one or more biological explanations for anorexia nervosa. [16 marks]
Aggression	2018	10	Q36	Discuss one or more social psychological explanations for aggression. Refer to some of the comments in the table above in your answer. [16 marks] Full mark example available
Forensic Psychology	2017	9	Q41	Describe and evaluate cognitive explanations for offending. [16 marks]
Addiction	2017	6	Q45	Describe and evaluate cognitive theory as an explanation of addiction. [16 marks]

A-level Psychology: Example responses (specimens)

You'll find the following resources in [Centre Services](#):

(Resources/Assessment and training/Subjects/Psychology/Answers and Commentaries)

- The resource provides marked extended writing responses, with commentary for 7182 specimen questions.
- Mark schemes are included in the booklet.

Paper 1: Sample set 3

This resource provides marked extended writing responses, with commentary, for the following questions:

Topic	Page	Summary
Social Influence	4	Discuss explanations for conformity. Refer to Steph and Jeff as part of your discussion. [16 marks]
Psychopathology	18	Discuss two behavioural treatments for phobias. Refer to the conversation above in your answer. [16 marks]

Paper 2: Sample set 2

This resource provides marked extended writing responses, with commentary, for the following question:

Topic	Page	Summary
Biopsychology	8	Discuss what research has shown about localisation of function in the brain. [8 marks]

Paper 3: Sample set 3

This resource provides marked extended writing responses, with commentary, for the following question:

Topic	Page	Summary
Issues and debates	3	Discuss the nature-nurture debate in psychology. Refer to at least two topics you have studied in your answer. [16 marks]
Relationships	7	Outline and evaluate the social exchange theory of relationships. [8 marks]
Gender	10	Outline and evaluate Freud's explanation of gender development. [8 marks]

Topic	Page	Summary
Cognition and development	14	Outline and evaluate Piaget's research into object permanence. [8 marks]
Schizophrenia	17	Outline and evaluate one or more psychological explanations for schizophrenia. [16 marks]
Stress	26	Discuss individual differences in responses to stress. [16 marks]

Training guidance and events

Find a wide range of extended writing examples from the following events in [Centre Services](#) (Resources/Assessment and training/Subjects/Psychology/Training Guidance and Events)

The pre-event booklet (student responses), provides examples of unmarked student responses (you can use these to practice applying the mark scheme).

The post-event booklet provides the mark awarded for the response, with commentary.

Event	Question	Summary
Feedback on the Exams 2022	2022, Paper 2, Q8	Discuss localisation of function in the brain. [16 marks]
Feedback on the Exams 2019	2019, Paper 3, Q4	Discuss the nature-nurture debate in psychology. [16 marks]
Feedback on the Exams 2018	2018, Paper 1, Q17	Discuss the cognitive approach to treating depression. [16 marks]
Effective Exam Preparation, 2020	2019, Paper 1, Q5	Discuss ethical issues in social influence research. [8 marks]
Effective Exam Preparation, 2020	2019, Paper 1, Q8	Discuss the multi-store model of memory. Refer to the information above in your answer. [16 marks]
Effective Exam Preparation, 2020	2019, Paper 3, Q29	Describe differential association theory in the context of offending. Refer to the study above in your answer. [8 marks]
Effective exam preparation, 2019	2018, Paper 1, Q3	Discuss what psychological research has told us about why people conform. [16 marks]
Effective exam preparation, 2019	2018, Paper 1, Q12	Discuss the learning theory of attachment and Bowlby's monotropic theory of attachment. Refer to the conversation above in your answer. [16 marks]
Effective exam preparation, 2019	2018, Paper 3, Q36	Discuss one or more social psychological explanations for aggression. Refer to some of the comments in the table above in your answer. [16 marks]
Getting Started, Summer 2019	2017, Paper 2, Q3	Outline and evaluate the humanistic approach. Refer to Tatiana's behaviour in your answer. [16 marks]

Event	Question	Summary
Getting Started, Summer 2019	2017, Paper 2, Q9	Outline one or more ways of studying the brain. [8 marks]
Getting Started, Summer 2019	2017, Paper 3, Q6	Discuss two or more types of determinism. Refer to the case of Dancho as part of your discussion. [16 marks]

Further support resources

- AQA on-demand course is valuable for supporting application of the mark scheme. [AQA | Professional development](#)
- Podcast: Teaching Guide: Preparing for AS and A-level Psychology Assessment [AQA | AS and A-level | Psychology | Teaching resources](#)