



GCSE EXAMINERS' REPORTS

PSYCHOLOGY

SUMMER 2016

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Annual Statistical Report

The annual Statistical Report (issued in the second half of the Autumn Term) gives overall outcomes of all examinations administered by WJEC.

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PSYCHOLOGY

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Summer 2016

UNIT 1

1. (a) Generally well answered.
(b) Very generic answers with many candidates not receiving top marks as they made general comments such as lack of evidence and some candidates also discussed reasons for the existence of ESP and consequently this received no credit.

2. (a) Generally well answered.
(b) (i) Most candidates received partial credit because they only referred to one function of the frontal lobe, e.g. personality with many describing Phineas Gage.
(c) (i)&(ii) Unfortunately, these were poorly answered with candidates clearly not knowing what a PET scan or ERP does.

3. (a) Well answered with many candidates gaining full marks.
(b) Most candidates achieved some credit but many answers lacked detail.
(c) (i) (ii)&(iii) Most candidates answered these well and received full marks.
(d) Mixed answers with many candidates listing, or very briefly describing ways of dealing with ethical issues which only received low marks.

4. (a) Many candidates failed to refer to social learning theory and consequently received no credit or did not refer to the source and only received partial credit.
(b)&(c) These were both poorly answered with candidates clearly not understanding the differences and similarities between classical and operant conditioning.
(d) This was generally well answered with many candidates receiving full credit.

5. (a) Generally well answered with many candidates gaining full marks and referring to imprinting, attachment and the critical period.
- (b) Generally well answered.
- (c) This was well attempted by most candidates but some still referred to advantages of using non-human animals. Some candidates referred to the ethical issues such as lack of informed consent and right to withdraw and consequently none of this received any credit.
6. (a) Unfortunately, the whole of this question was generally poorly answered with candidates confusing the Walster study with the three factor theory of love.
- (b) (i)&(ii) Most candidates were unable to apply their knowledge of the theory to give a good strength and weakness and many answers were very generic.
- (c)&(d) Again these were very generic answers with candidates clearly not fully understanding the theory. However, many candidates still gained partial credit.

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UNIT 2

1.
 - (a) Generally well answered.
 - (b) Most candidates received partial credit for giving generic answers without actually naming and explaining the illusion.
 - (c) Generally well answered.
 - (d) Answers here were mixed. Many candidates wrote as much as they could about visual illusions and consequently received some credit but many of these answers were muddled with comments about Gestalt.

2.
 - (a) Generally well answered with many candidates receiving full marks and referring to schemes and stereotypes and referring to the source clearly.
 - (b) Generally well answered with many candidates receiving full marks.
 - (c) (i)&(ii) Again well answered with many candidates receiving full marks.

3.
 - (a) Most candidates received some credit for this question.
 - (b) Generally well answered with many candidates receiving full marks and referring to two limitations of Piaget's study.
 - (c) Well answered.
 - (d) Most candidates attempted this question with mixed success. The best answers referred to scaffolding and all three modes of representation in the classroom.

4.
 - (a) Generally well answered with many candidates receiving full marks for listing four symptoms but only the first four symptoms were marked. Consequently some candidates only received partial marks as they listed symptoms from many different disorders
 - (b) Again a lot of generic answers here with most candidates receiving partial credit for describing psychosurgery with superficial reference to how it is used to treat mental illness.
 - (c) This question was generally well answered with most candidates gaining some credit. However, some fell into the trap of just describing the treatment from the biological approach without discussing how effective it was. Also some candidates misread the question and discussed the treatment used by the behavioural approach and consequently this received no credit.

5. (a) Most candidates received some credit for this question but failed to refer to the source so only received partial marks.
- (b) Most candidates wrote very generic answers (e.g. 'shows a relationship').
- (c) (i)&(ii) Generally well answered but again candidates wrote very generic answers. Many answers did not refer to the source and therefore only received partial credit.
- (d) Again candidates wrote very generic answers and did not refer to the source and, therefore, only received partial credit (e.g. just stated opportunity sampling).
- (e) (i) Again candidates wrote very generic answers and did not refer to the source and therefore only received partial credit. Some candidates repeated the same ethical issue twice and therefore only received partial marks.
- (ii) Mixed answers from candidates. Some did not refer to the ethical issue they had named in part i) and therefore received no credit.
6. (a) Generally well answered with most candidates clearly defining a case study.
- (b) (i)&(ii) Again generally well answered with many candidates receiving full marks.
- (c) (i) Well answered with most candidates receiving full marks.
- (ii) Well answered with most candidates receiving full marks.



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