

Psychology

Advanced GCE **2549**

Psychology and Crime

Mark Scheme for June 2010

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Mark schemes should be read in conjunction with the published question papers and the Report on the Examination.

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Section A

Question 1

(a) Outline one theory of criminal behaviour. [6]

Any theory of criminal behaviour may be accepted. It could include XYY syndrome, Adrian Raine's work, Kohlberg, Eysenck, Farrington for example.

Higher level responses will show a clear, detailed and accurate understanding of the theory. Weaker responses may be inaccurate and lacking detail verging on anecdotal. There will be a lack of psychological terminology.

Marks	Mark Descriptor
0 marks	No answer or incorrect answer.
1-2 marks:	The answer attempts to describe one theory of criminal behaviour. The answer is largely anecdotal and there is little use of psychological terms or concepts. The answer has errors and omissions, is brief and lacks understanding.
3-4 marks:	The answer considers one theory of criminal behaviour using psychological terms and concepts. The description is mainly accurate and informed and, has some evidence of elaboration and understanding.
5-6 marks:	The answer gives a clear account of one theory of criminal behaviour from a psychological perspective. The answer is detailed, well organised and the candidate clearly understands what they have written.

(b) Evaluate methods that psychologists have used to investigate why people commit crime. [10]

Methods used could include moral dilemmas, interviews, psychometric tests, using hypothetical scenarios or experiments or PET scans. Problems could be validity, reliability, ecological validity, socially desirable answers etc.

Marks	Mark Descriptor
0 marks	No answer or incorrect answer.
1-4 marks:	The answer attempts to evaluate methods used to investigate criminal behaviour. The evidence and explanations are largely anecdotal and psychological concepts and terms are sparsely used. The answer is superficial and lacks detail.
5-7 marks:	The answer is appropriate to the assessment request. Some methodological issues are raised and applied in an appropriate way to the issue of the methods used to investigate criminal behaviour. There is appropriate use of psychological terms and concepts. The answer has a reasonable range of points and there is some evidence of elaboration.
8-10 marks:	The answer is appropriate to the assessment request. The answer has a good range of points that consider the methods used to

investigate criminal behaviour. There is a confident use of psychological terms and concepts. The answer has an impressive range of points each of which is clearly explained and elaboration is coherent and thorough.

[Total 10 marks]

Question 2

- (a) Describe one piece of research into environmental crime prevention. [6]

This could include designing out crime through building design and defensive space such as Oscar Newman's work or it could include CCTV and neighbourhood watch schemes, hardening the target etc. Any relevant suggestion should be credited.

A strong response will be informed and accurate and may draw out the psychological processes at work in the crime prevention method such as increased confidence or lack of deindividuation because criminals can be identified. A weaker response will tend towards anecdotal and lack psychological terminology.

Marks	Mark Descriptor
0 marks	No answer or incorrect answer.
1-2 marks:	The answer attempts to describe one method of environmental crime prevention. The answer is largely anecdotal and there is little use of psychological terms or concepts. The answer has errors and omissions, is brief and lacks understanding.
3-4 marks:	The answer describes one method of environmental crime prevention. The description is mainly accurate and informed and has some evidence of elaboration and understanding.
5-6 marks:	The answer one method of crime prevention from a psychological perspective. The answer is detailed, well organised and the candidate clearly understands what they have written.

(b) Discuss the effectiveness of environmental crime prevention.

[10]

This is likely to include moving crime from one area to another (criminals weighing up costs and benefits) , criminals being deindividuated by using disguises (hoodies) so remaining unaffected by cameras. No-one watching the cameras or the police being unwilling to spend hours going through footage (police personality?). On the plus side it has led to an increase in arrests and can be used to help deploy police to hot spots in a town centre. Cameras have also been influential in catching high profile criminals as aids to recall and have given people confidence to go out at night. Designing out crime is also a mixed picture (the psychology of ownership, personal space and territoriality).

Any reasonable point should gain credit. A strong response will confidently use psychological terminology to create a number of informed points which directly address effectiveness. Weaker responses are likely to stray away from the injunction into a more general response and may be inaccurate and tend towards anecdote.

Marks	Mark Descriptor
0 marks	No answer or incorrect answer.
1-4 marks:	The answer attempts to discuss the effectiveness of environmental crime prevention. The evidence and explanations are largely anecdotal and psychological concepts and terms are sparsely used. The answer is superficial and lacks detail.
5-7 marks:	The answer is appropriate to the assessment request. Some points are raised and applied in an appropriate way to the issue of the effectiveness of environmental crime prevention. There is appropriate use of psychological terms and concepts. The answer has a reasonable range of points and there is some evidence of elaboration.
8-10 marks:	The answer is appropriate to the assessment request. The answer has a good range of points that consider the effectiveness of environmental crime prevention. There is a confident use of psychological terms and concepts. The answer has an impressive range of points each of which is clearly explained and elaboration is coherent and thorough.

[Total 10 marks]

Section B**Question 3****(a) Describe psychological research into criminal thinking patterns. [10]**

Candidates may offer material from across the sub-section. We could therefore expect to see Kolberg 1976, Piaget (1950s), Freud 1920s), Cornish and Clarke (1987), (rationality), Asch (1955), Zimbardo (1973), and attitudes/attribution (social cognition) including aggressive scripts (Zillman 1988, Dodge 1986), and hostile attributional bias. The best candidates will apply the research or theory explicitly to criminal thinking and will show by their conclusions that they understand what they are describing. Weaker candidates will offer rote-like descriptions of the research which are not applied to crime.

Concepts and Terminology (AO1)

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 0 marks | Incorrect or inappropriate material is presented. |
| 1 mark: | There is some limited use of psychological terms and concepts. Spelling and sentence construction are poor; and punctuation is inappropriate or largely absent. |
| 2 marks: | Appropriate terms and concepts are presented, but there is lack of clarity. Spelling and punctuation are reasonable but there are a number of errors. |
| 3 marks: | Appropriate terms and concepts are presented and used in a confident way. Spelling is good, although there could be one or two errors. Sentence construction is good with views expressed clearly. Punctuation is appropriate. |

Evidence (AO1)

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 0 marks | No evidence is presented. |
| 1 mark: | Some basic evidence is described which is of peripheral relevance or it is predominantly anecdotal. |
| 2 marks: | Some appropriate psychological evidence is described but there are a number of errors and it is limited in scope and detail. |
| 3 marks: | Appropriate psychological evidence is accurately described. It is reasonably wide-ranging in scope and is reasonably detailed. |
| 4 marks: | Appropriate psychological evidence is accurately described that is wide ranging in scope and detail. |

Understanding (AO1)

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 0 marks | The answer is list-like with no attempt to understand what has been written; there is no use of elaboration, clarification or example. |
| 1 mark: | The answer demonstrates good understanding but is sparse. |
| 2 marks: | The answer demonstrates good understanding. There is some clarification of terminology, occasional use of examples, and some expansion of complex points. There is some coherence and a reasonable structure. |
| 3 marks: | The answer demonstrates explicitly applied understanding throughout. There is clarification of terminology, use of examples, expansion of complex points; the answer is coherent and well structured. |

Total 10 marks for question (a).

(b) Evaluate psychological research into criminal thinking patterns. [16]

Candidates may use a range of issues to evaluate research such as that listed in part (a,) including ecological validity, reliability, methodology, usefulness of research. Broader issues such as reductionism, determinism and ethics could also appear. Candidates may adopt an issue by issue approach or they may evaluate study by study. Either way should gain equal credit.

"The best answers will have clearly defined issues linked to psychological evidence (including research, concepts or theories). Analysis may take the form of comparisons and contrasts but may also take the form of strengths and weaknesses or problems of the evidence. All types of analysis will be credited."

Range of Issues (AO2)

0 marks	No material worthy of credit.
1-2 marks:	The answer identifies some issues; they could have been related to the question more closely and they could have been elaborated and explained further.
3-4 marks:	The answer covers an appropriate range of issues; the issues are made relevant, explained and elaborated.

Evidence for Issues (AO2)

0 marks	No material worthy of credit.
1-2 marks:	Some evidence is identified and an attempt is made to show its relevance to the issues.
3-4 marks:	Evidence is appropriately selected to illustrate the issues and commented on effectively.

Analysis (AO2)

0 marks	No material worthy of credit.
1-2 marks:	An attempt is made to provide some analysis.
3-4 marks:	The answer contains some analysis most likely in the form of comparisons and contrasts; these are accurate, detailed and effective.

Argument Structure

0 marks	No material worthy of credit.
1-2 marks:	The answer has a sound structure and the argument is generally clear and coherent but there is an imbalance and minor weaknesses.
3-4 marks:	The structure of the answer is highly effective in providing a cogent framework for compelling arguments that demonstrate originality and insight into evidence.

Total 16 marks for question part (b)

- (c) Using your knowledge of psychology, suggest how a criminal might be helped to turn away from crime. Give reasons for your answer. [8]

Suggestions could include:

Using moral dilemmas to develop a better understanding of right and wrong. Meeting the victims of their crimes to encourage empathy for their victims. Education and training to see that crime is not a rational choice. Attribution re-training. Changing their locus of control. Using positive reinforcement to change their behaviour. Token economies and any other reasonable suggestion.

The best answers will be clearly linked to the scenario and show good understanding of how theory can be applied. They may also be able to address weaknesses of the application. Weaker answers will tend to leave out the psychology and give answers based on personal experience or anecdote.

Application (AO1/AO2)

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 0 marks | No suggestions are made OR suggestions are made which are inappropriate to the assessment request. |
| 1-2 marks: | An appropriate suggestion is made but it is based on anecdotal or peripherally relevant psychological evidence. |
| 3-4 marks: | A suggestion is made that is appropriate to the assessment request and is based on appropriate psychological evidence. The suggestion is detailed and clearly explained. |

Application Interpretation Reasons (AO1/AO2)

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 0 marks | The answer shows very little or no understanding. |
| 1-2 marks: | The answer attempts to provide a rationale for the suggested application/intervention. The reasons given have some relevance to the issue under discussion and some relevance to the evidence discussed elsewhere in the answer. |
| 3-4 marks: | The answer gives a clear psychological rationale for the suggested application. There is confident use of terminology, used of examples, and expansion of complex points. The answer is coherent and well structured. |

Total Marks for question part (c): (8)

Total Question Mark: (34) (AO1=14; AO2=20)

Question 4**(a) Describe psychological research into offender profiling.**

Probable answers will include the US and the UK approaches, CATCHEM database and other data bases. Research into effectiveness of profiling, eg Copson (1995), Jackson et al (1997) etc can also be credited. A case study may also be credited, but must include details that relate to what psychologists have found out about offender profiling rather than upon the details of the case where not relevant. The best answers will have good detail and accuracy and cover several points. Weakest answers will show a sketchy understanding of profiling and may refer to media fictitious creations.

Concepts and Terminology (AO1)

0 marks	Incorrect or inappropriate material is presented.
1 mark:	There is some limited use of psychological terms and concepts. Spelling and sentence construction are poor; and punctuation is inappropriate or largely absent.
2 marks:	Appropriate terms and concepts are presented, but there is lack of clarity. Spelling and punctuation are reasonable but there are a number of errors.
3 marks:	Appropriate terms and concepts are presented and used in a confident way. Spelling is good, although there could be one or two errors. Sentence construction is good with views expressed clearly. Punctuation is appropriate.

Evidence (AO1)

0 marks	No evidence is presented.
1 mark:	Some basic evidence is described which is of peripheral relevance or it is predominantly anecdotal.
2 marks:	Some appropriate psychological evidence is described but there are a number of errors and it is limited in scope and detail.
3 marks:	Appropriate psychological evidence is accurately described. It is reasonably wide-ranging in scope and is reasonably detailed.
4 marks:	Appropriate psychological evidence is accurately described that is wide ranging in scope and detail.

Understanding (AO1)

0 marks	The answer is list-like with no attempt to understand what has been written; there is no use of elaboration, clarification or example.
1 mark	The answer demonstrates some understanding but is sparse.
2 marks:	The answer demonstrates good understanding. There is some clarification of terminology, occasional use of examples, and some expansion of complex points. There is some coherence and a reasonable structure.
3 marks:	The answer demonstrates explicitly applied understanding throughout. There is clarification of terminology, use of examples, expansion of complex points; the answer is coherent and well structured.

Total 10 marks for question part (a).

(b) Evaluate psychological research into offender profiling. [16]

Effectiveness, usefulness, reliability, sample, validity, generalisation, correlational data ethics and competing perspectives and other appropriate evaluation issues may be credited. Some candidates may adopt an issue by issue approach; others may evaluate each piece of research in turn. Either approach should gain equal credit.

The best answers will have clearly defined issues linked to psychological evidence (including research, concepts or theories). Analysis may take the form of comparisons and contrasts but may also take the form of strengths and weaknesses or problems of the evidence. All types of analysis will be credited.

Range of Issues (AO2)

0 marks	No material worthy of credit.
1-2 marks:	The answer identifies some issues; they could have been related to the question more closely and they could have been elaborated and explained further.
3-4 marks:	The answer covers an appropriate range of issues; the issues are made relevant, explained and elaborated.

Evidence for Issues (AO2)

0 marks	No material worthy of credit.
1-2 marks	Some evidence is identified and an attempt is made to show its relevance to the issues.
3-4 marks:	Evidence is appropriately selected to illustrate the issues and commented on effectively.

Analysis (AO2)

0 marks	No material worthy of credit.
1-2 marks	An attempt is made to provide some analysis.
3-4 marks:	The answer contains some analysis most likely in the form of comparisons and contrasts; these are accurate, detailed and effective.

Argument Structure (AO2)

0 marks	No material worthy of credit.
1-2 marks:	The answer has a sound structure and the argument is generally clear and coherent but there is an imbalance and minor weaknesses.
3-4 marks:	The structure of the answer is highly effective in providing a cogent framework for compelling arguments that demonstrate originality and insight into evidence.

Total 16 marks for question part (b)

- (c) Using your knowledge of psychology, suggest the circumstances under which a profiler should be called upon to help police solve a crime. Give reasons for your answer. [8]

Profiling is generally thought to be of most use when the crime is unusual or there is a pattern to a series of crimes. There must usually be a crime scene. In addition, candidates may suggest that profilers can help to suggest a direction to follow in a more general case. They may also suggest that profilers are useful for suggesting interview strategies.

Strong responses will be related to the scenario and be realistic. Weaker responses are likely to miss out the psychological links and rationale. Equal credit should be given for breadth and depth.

Application (AO1/AO2)

0 marks	No suggestions are made OR suggestions are made which are inappropriate to the assessment request.
1-2 marks:	An appropriate suggestion is made but it is based on anecdotal or peripherally relevant psychological evidence.
3-4 marks:	A suggestion is made that is appropriate to the assessment request and is based on appropriate psychological evidence. The suggestion is detailed and clearly explained.

Application Interpretation: Reasons (AO1/AO2)

0 marks	The answer shows very little or no understanding.
1-2 marks	The answer attempts to provide a rationale for the suggested application/intervention. The reasons given have some relevance to the issue under discussion and some relevance to the evidence discussed elsewhere in the answer.
3-4 marks:	The answer gives a clear psychological rationale for the suggested application. There is confident use of terminology, used of examples, and expansion of complex points. The answer is coherent and well structured.

Total Marks for question part (c): (8)

Total Question Mark: (34) (AO1=14; AO2=20)

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