

Trial Examination 2012

## VCE Psychology Unit 1

Written Examination

### Question and Answer Booklet

Reading time: 15 minutes  
Writing time: 1 hour 30 minutes

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Structure of Booklet

| Section | Number of questions | Number of questions to be answered | Number of marks |
|---------|---------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| A       | 45                  | 45                                 | 45              |
| B       | 14                  | 14                                 | 35              |
| C       | 1                   | 1                                  | 10              |
|         |                     |                                    | Total 90        |

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 white out liquid/tape.

No calculator is allowed in this examination.

#### Materials supplied

Question and answer booklet of 20 pages.

Answer sheet for multiple-choice questions.

#### Instructions

Please ensure that you write your **name** and your **teacher's name** in the space provided on this booklet and on your answer sheet for multiple-choice questions.

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 booklet.

**Students are NOT permitted to bring mobile phones and/or any other electronic communication 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 mark will be given if more than one answer is completed for any question.

### Question 1

The origins of psychology can be traced back over 2000 years to

- A. Wilhelm Wundt.
- B. the Ancient Greek philosophers.
- C. empiricism.
- D. psychoanalysis.

### Question 2

The major perspectives from which psychologists approach their research into human behaviour are

- A. cognitive, emotional, behavioural and empirical.
- B. biological, behavioural, cognitive and socio-cultural.
- C. developmental, cognitive, social and visual.
- D. physical, empirical, cognitive and ethical.

### Question 3

Psychology is considered to be a science because

- A. the information is based on personal subjective experiences.
- B. psychologists have university degrees in science.
- C. the information is based on empirical research findings.
- D. it has developed from psychiatry.

### Question 4

Which of the following statements is **not** true about psychologists?

- A. To become qualified as a psychologist takes six years of study and training.
- B. Psychologists are not permitted to work in hospitals.
- C. Psychologists treat patients using various forms of psychotherapy.
- D. Psychologists are not qualified to perform medical procedures.

**Question 5**

Mark has been called as an expert witness in a court case. Mark has assessed the accused man at his clinic and has diagnosed a serious mental disorder. In court, Mark states that because of his mental condition, the defendant is incapable of understanding the consequences of his actions on the victim and therefore cannot be held responsible for his behaviour.

Mark is most likely a/n

- A. forensic psychologist.
- B. lawyer.
- C. organisational psychologist.
- D. health professional.

**Question 6**

A government department has commissioned the services of a qualified psychologist to design and conduct an extensive study on cyber-bullying in Australian schools.

The most suitable person to lead such a team would be a/n \_\_\_\_\_ psychologist.

- A. educational and developmental
- B. sport
- C. research
- D. community

**Question 7**

Geronimo experiences severe mood swings, from feeling energised and elated to being depressed and suicidal. He cannot control his extreme emotions, even with the support and assistance of his family and friends. It appears that Geronimo might require the intervention of drug therapy.

Therefore Geronimo would best be treated by a

- A. clinical psychologist.
- B. neurologist.
- C. psychiatrist.
- D. general practitioner.

*Use the following information to answer Questions 8, 9, 10 and 11.*

An academic psychologist at a Melbourne university constructed a series of tests that were subsequently administered to children in grades prep, one and two in a random sample of Victorian primary schools. The purpose was to measure and compare literacy skills of Victorian children in 2012 across the three grade levels.

**Question 8**

From the information supplied above, the study design used may best be described as

- A. cross-sectional.
- B. longitudinal.
- C. cohort-sequential.
- D. correlational.

**Question 9**

The psychologist commissioned to create the test was most likely an expert in the field of \_\_\_\_\_ psychology.

- A. adolescent
- B. educational and developmental
- C. organisational
- D. neurological

**Question 10**

The investigation is an example of research from the \_\_\_\_\_ perspective.

- A. cognitive
- B. psycho-social
- C. academic
- D. behavioural

**Question 11**

The random sample of schools participating in the research means that

- A. the researcher approached a number of schools in the vicinity of the university in no particular order and asked them to participate.
- B. every Victorian state school participated.
- C. the researcher chose a selection of state and private schools that he knew of to ensure that there was a wide range of abilities amongst the pupils tested.
- D. every primary school in Victoria was in the selection pool and therefore had an equal chance of being selected.

**Question 12**

Liam, who is in Grade 2, has been diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). He is disruptive in the classroom and his learning is being seriously hampered. Liam's teacher consults the school's psychologist, who advises her to reward Liam every time he engages in appropriate behaviours such as sitting still, completing a task or remaining quiet.

The psychologist is suggesting a strategy taken from the \_\_\_\_\_ perspective in psychology.

- A. empirical
- B. behavioural
- C. emotional
- D. socio-cultural

**Question 13**

Astrology is considered to be a \_\_\_\_\_ because it \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. science; is supported by scientific research findings
- B. pseudoscience; involves making predictions
- C. science; is based on astrological charts
- D. pseudoscience; lacks reliability and validity

**Question 14**

The following disciplines are considered to be pseudosciences:

- A. biology, chemistry and physics
- B. numerology, palmistry, and graphology
- C. psi abilities, scientology and psychology
- D. psychology, psychiatry and gerontology

**Question 15**

Visual perception begins when light is detected by \_\_\_\_\_ cells in the \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. photoreceptor; cornea
- B. ganglion; cornea
- C. photoreceptor; retina
- D. ganglion; retina

**Question 16**

Hubel and Weisel discovered the existence of specialised nerve cells along the visual pathway that detect particular aspects of a visual stimulus, such as lines, angles and dots. They named these cells 'feature detectors'.

Hubel and Weisel's work is an example of research from the \_\_\_\_\_ perspective.

- A. biological
- B. visual
- C. cognitive
- D. physical

**Question 17**

The neural pathway for vision begins in the \_\_\_\_\_ and ends in the \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. cornea; brain
- B. pupil; retina
- C. retina; brain
- D. lens; visual cortex of the brain

**Question 18**

The key difference between sensation and perception in the processes involved in visual perception is that sensation \_\_\_\_\_, while perception \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. refers to feelings; refers to seeing
- B. is a psychological process; is a physical process
- C. involves physiological functions; involves psychological functions
- D. is a physiological process; involves both physiological and psychological processes

**Question 19**

The processes in visual perception that conclude with a stimulus being recognised occur in the following order:

- A. selection, organisation, interpretation
- B. reception, transduction, interpretation
- C. selection, transmission, organisation
- D. reception, transduction, transmission

**Question 20**

Which one of the processes below involves cognition?

- A. reception
- B. transduction
- C. transmission
- D. interpretation

**Question 21**

Due to human eyes being approximately 7 centimetres apart, images detected by each eye are slightly different. When the images are combined by the brain, the location of objects in the environment can be judged.

This is a \_\_\_\_\_ known as \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. depth cue; convergence
- B. Gestalt principle; accommodation
- C. depth cue; retinal disparity
- D. Gestalt principle; similarity

**Question 22**

When Tessa walked into a crowded restaurant she noticed groups of people sitting at tables and estimated that there were approximately fifty diners present.

Tessa noticed separate groups rather than a collective number of people due to a principle known as

- A. figure-ground organisation.
- B. closure.
- C. proximity.
- D. the phi phenomenon.

**Question 23**

Brooke, who had attended an after-school psychology tutorial, was waiting in the rain for her mother to pick her up at the front gate. Brooke's mother drives a blue car. As Brooke waited, she noticed every blue car that drove past on the street and was surprised at how many there were.

The psychological factor that has contributed most strongly to Brooke's increased awareness of blue cars as she waits for her mother is

- A. past experience.
- B. context.
- C. emotional state.
- D. motivation.

**Question 24**

Which statement is **not** true about the study of human development in psychology?

- A. Developmental psychologists are interested in changes that occur across the lifespan.
- B. Developmental psychologists study perceptual, emotional, cognitive, psycho-social and moral development.
- C. Development includes both growth and decline of capabilities.
- D. Psychologists are currently interested only in early childhood development, rather than changes that may occur during adulthood and old age, as these have already been thoroughly researched.

**Question 25**

In studies of development the term 'maturation' refers to

- A. an infant's and child's body growing physically stronger.
- B. an adult's body becoming physically weaker in old age.
- C. emotional maturity from infancy to adolescence.
- D. cognitive growth during infancy and childhood.

**Question 26**

An individual's eye colour is determined by \_\_\_\_\_, while literacy and numeracy are mainly influenced by \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. heredity and the environment; the environment
- B. heredity; the environment
- C. the environment; heredity and the environment
- D. the environment; heredity

**Question 27**

According to Eleanor Gibson's research on depth perception, the ability to discern a drop becomes evident

- A. during the last trimester of pregnancy.
- B. soon after the first month of life.
- C. before six months of age.
- D. when the infant is able to crawl.

**Question 28**

In her research, Gibson used an apparatus known as the

- A. Ames room.
- B. visual cliff.
- C. Strange Situation.
- D. surrogate mother prop.

**Question 29**

Attachment theory was developed by psychologists studying the \_\_\_\_\_ development of \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. perceptual; children
- B. emotional; infants
- C. cognitive; monkeys
- D. moral; adolescents

**Question 30**

According to studies on development across the lifespan, attachment disorder most commonly evolves during \_\_\_\_\_, while dementia is experienced in \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. childhood; middle age
- B. infancy; old age
- C. adolescence; early adulthood
- D. middle age; childhood

**Question 31**

In Harlow's experiments with rhesus monkeys

- A. the surrogate mothers were not interested in their offspring.
- B. the infant monkeys formed an attachment with the wire mother who offered food.
- C. the infant monkeys spent significantly more time with the wire surrogate than the cloth-covered surrogate mother.
- D. the cloth-covered surrogate was preferred over the wire surrogate regardless of whether or not it provided food.

**Question 32**

Piaget developed a theory that proposes that children learn to interpret the environment through the processes of

- A. assimilation and accommodation.
- B. attachment and detachment.
- C. trial and error.
- D. maturation and affordances.



**Question 33**

Hatty has just learnt to crawl. When she notices a brightly coloured ball in the corner of the room, she rapidly crawls over to play with it.

According to Piaget's theory, Hatty is in the \_\_\_\_\_ stage and is demonstrating \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. sensorimotor; object permanence
- B. pre-operational; egocentrism
- C. sensorimotor; goal-directed behaviour
- D. pre-operational; logical thinking

**Question 34**

An individual who can understand abstract concepts is, according to Piaget, in the \_\_\_\_\_ stage.

- A. sensorimotor
- B. pre-operational
- C. concrete operational
- D. formal operational

**Question 35**

Current opinion of Piaget's theory is best described as follows:

- A. The theory is old-fashioned and has no place in modern psychology.
- B. Recent research indicates that the cognitive accomplishments occur later than Piaget suggested.
- C. Some of the emotional milestones have been found to be non-existent.
- D. While some Piagetian tasks have been shown to have been mastered earlier than the theory states, it is still considered to be a valuable explanation of cognitive development.

**Question 36**

Erikson proposed a theory of \_\_\_\_\_ development that had \_\_\_\_\_ stages.

- A. perceptual; four
- B. cognitive; six
- C. psycho-social; eight
- D. moral; eight

**Question 37**

Erikson was interested in how individuals' development is shaped by their

- A. personal experiences and interaction with other people.
- B. goals and beliefs.
- C. emotional relationship with principal caregivers.
- D. maturation and learning.

**Question 38**

Mr Carravaggio is working full-time, but has become unhappy in the workplace. He needs the money, however, to continue financing his mortgage, which will be paid off in five years' time. Mr Carravaggio has adult children who have not met his expectations and who are a disappointment to him.

According to Erikson's theory it is most likely that Mr Carravaggio is experiencing the crisis of

- A. mistrust v. trust.
- B. industry v. inferiority.
- C. intimacy v. isolation.
- D. generativity v. stagnation.

**Question 39**

According to Kohlberg's theory, which of the following statements is **not** true?

- A. Children learn socially and culturally accepted moral behaviour through consequences of their actions.
- B. Moral behaviour at the 'conventional' level is determined by an understanding of rules that should be followed.
- C. All individuals eventually reach the 'post-conventional' level of moral reasoning.
- D. The 'pre-conventional' level is characterised by obedience, punishment and expectation of rewards.

**Question 40**

Henry is a high-profile media personality who believes that the identity of serious serial offender criminals should be revealed to the community when they are released from jail. He says that members of society have the right to have this knowledge for self-protection. However, disclosing such information is illegal and previous offenders have the right to remain anonymous. Henry chooses to disclose the identities of several individuals with long histories of criminal violence. As a result Henry is prosecuted for breaking the law and is sentenced to six months' jail.

According to Kohlberg's theory, it appears that Henry is behaving in accordance with the \_\_\_\_\_ level of moral reasoning.

- A. pre-conventional
- B. conventional
- C. post-conventional
- D. unconventional

**Question 41**

A major criticism of the research that forms the basis of Kohlberg's theory is that

- A. people's actual behaviour might differ from what they say they will do.
- B. morality cannot be investigated because it is a hypothetical construct.
- C. to investigate morality is unethical as it is an invasion of privacy.
- D. it is not appropriate to use children in scientific studies.

**Question 42**

Mental disorders that are more likely to emerge during adolescence rather than any other lifespan stage include

- A. Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and schizophrenia.
- B. Anorexia nervosa and major depression.
- C. Major depression and Parkinson's disease.
- D. Phobia and Asperger's syndrome.

**Question 43**

Vlad has been diagnosed with a mental disorder. His symptoms include a sense of confusion during the course of his daily activities; inappropriate emotional responses such as laughing or crying for no apparent reason; incoherent speech; and hallucinations.

It appears that Vlad is suffering from

- A. a personality disorder.
- B. schizophrenia.
- C. an autism spectrum disorder.
- D. major depression.

**Question 44**

Gerry is 87 years old. While he is physically active and enjoys life, he has noticed some changes in his abilities. He finds that at times his memory for events differs from other people's recollections, such as who was present at his previous birthday celebration. It is taking him longer to complete crossword puzzles than it used to, and he must concentrate harder when learning new information, such as how to use the remote control on his DVD player.

It appears that Gerry is experiencing \_\_\_\_\_ due to his advancing age.

- A. cognitive changes
- B. dementia
- C. psycho-social changes
- D. perceptual deficits

**Question 45**

The key to successful ageing according to Baltes' theory of selective optimisation with compensation (SOC), is that older individuals should

- A. avoid doing tasks that they may not succeed in so as to maintain a sense of self-esteem.
- B. ask friends and family to help out with daily chores such as cleaning the house.
- C. adapt the complexity of activities so that they complete them successfully, such as preparing less elaborate meals than previously.
- D. remain optimistic at all times even though they might feel old and hopeless.

**END OF SECTION A**

**SECTION B – SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS**

**Instructions for Section B**

Answer **all** questions in the spaces provided. Write using black or blue pen.

**Question 1**

Distinguish between a case study and an observational study as methods of gathering data in psychological research.

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2 marks

**Question 2**

Explain the difference in the roles of clinical and counselling psychologists.

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2 marks

**Question 3**

a. The visible spectrum of light for human beings is physical energy in the form of wavelengths from the \_\_\_\_\_ spectrum.

1 mark

b. State why humans are unable to see ultraviolet (UV) and infrared (IR) radiation.

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1 mark

**Question 4**

Explain the roles of the following structures in the process of visual sensation and perception.

a. pupil

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b. lens

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c. optic nerve

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1 + 1 + 1 = 3 marks

**Question 5**

Explain how the Gestalt principles of figure-ground organisation and closure contribute to visual perception. Supply an example of each to demonstrate your understanding.

a. figure-ground organisation

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b. closure

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1 + 1 = 2 marks

**Question 6**

a. Explain what is meant by the term 'perceptual constancy'.

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1 mark

b. Distinguish between size and shape constancy, supplying an example of each.

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2 marks

**Question 7**

a. What is a visual illusion?

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1 mark

b. Name one famous visual illusion and explain why it occurs.

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2 marks

**Question 8**

Kristie, who is sixteen years old, is very tall, as are both her parents. Kristie's parents have average intelligence, while Kristie shows signs of being gifted and has been achieving very high grades for her academic work at school.

With reference to the 'nature versus nurture debate', explain how each (nature and nurture) might be contributing to Kristie's development.

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3 marks

**Question 9**

- a. Describe two behaviours that, according to Ainsworth, demonstrate an infant’s secure attachment to its caregiver.

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2 marks

- b. According to Ainsworth, what are the likely psychological consequences later in life for an infant who has experienced resistant or avoidant attachment in the first year of their life?

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1 mark

**Question 10**

- a. What did Piaget mean when he suggested that children in the pre-operational stage were ‘egocentric’?

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1 mark

- b. Explain how the Piagetian concept of conservation of mass could be tested on a child using a ball of play-dough.

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2 marks

**Question 11**

According to Erikson, a crisis that he labelled ‘identity versus role confusion’ occurs during adolescence.

Explain what he meant by this crisis and how failure to deal with it successfully might influence development.

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2 marks

**Question 12**

a. Explain what Kohlberg meant by a ‘moral dilemma’.

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1 mark

b. How did Kohlberg use moral dilemmas to investigate moral development?

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1 mark

**Question 13**

In a sentence, summarise Baltes’ view of the process of ageing in humans.

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1 mark

**Question 14**

Name and describe two ethical principles, as listed and defined in the Code of Ethics, that a developmental psychologist gathering data for a publication on early childhood psychology must abide by.

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4 marks

**END OF SECTION B**



**SECTION C – EXTENDED ANSWER QUESTION****Instructions for Section C**

Answer the question in the space provided. Write using black or blue pen.

Ms Burney, a psychology teacher at Kermit Park Secondary College, conducted an activity with her two Unit 1 Psychology classes to demonstrate aspects of psychological research.

She randomly allocated the 51 students to three groups by drawing their names out of a box.

The groups were tested separately one after the other during class time with Ms Burney conducting the procedure.

Group 1 was shown a series of line drawings of animals followed by a picture that could be interpreted as either a rat, or a man's face; Group 2 was shown a series of line drawings of people's faces followed by the 'rat-man'; Group 3 was shown line drawings of random objects followed by the 'rat-man'. Each student was asked to write down what they saw when exposed to the 'rat-man' picture.



**Figure 1 The rat-man picture.**

Ms Burney tallied up the responses and converted the totals to percentages. The results are presented in the table below.

**Table 1: Percentage of students reporting seeing a rat or a man.**

|            | <b>Group 1</b><br>(animals) | <b>Group 2</b><br>(human faces) | <b>Group 3</b><br>(random objects) |
|------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Rat</b> | 85                          | 30                              | 60                                 |
| <b>Man</b> | 15                          | 70                              | 40                                 |

**Demonstrate your understanding of an analysis of the study by referring to at least ten elements of information. Choose from the suggestions below.**

- Name the psychological phenomenon that Ms Burney was investigating.
- State the type of study Ms Burney conducted and how you know this from the scenario.
- State the purpose of the study.
- Describe the participants.
- Identify the independent and dependent variables.
- Describe the stimulus materials used by Ms Burney.
- Construct a research hypothesis for the study.
- Name the type of data presented in the table.
- Write a conclusion based on the results in Table 1.
- Explain what these results indicate.
- Construct a bar graph for the data presented in Table 1, ensuring that it is labelled correctly.

You may include any other relevant information if you wish.



