



Questions & Answers

Higher Psychology Question Paper – Script 1

Question 1B – Explain circadian rhythms

Should we award a mark for the first sentence despite the incorrect use of exogenous pacemaker?

Yes. As per the General Marking Principles we use positive marking, so ignore extraneous incorrect information. The mark is awarded for the reference to the sleep/wake cycle.

Question 1C – Evaluate Dement and Kleitman

In an evaluate question, is saying “study A influenced study B” enough to gain a mark?

No – you must say **how** study A influenced study B.

In an evaluate question, must a candidate state whether each point they give is a strength or a weakness?

Not explicitly, but it must be a valid evaluative point. If a candidate is not explicit then it must be clear to a marker whether they think something is a strength or a weakness. If a question asks for a strength/weakness then a candidate must provide a strength or weakness.

Question 1D – Explain cognitive processes with reference to the scenario

Must candidates name the studies which they refer to?

A study/author name is not required to gain a mark – however markers must be able to identify which study a candidate is referring to. If they cannot identify the study, then they cannot verify that the information given about it is accurate.

Will application questions always be presented in a scenario?

No. Application questions are simply about asking candidates to apply their knowledge in a particular context. This has most commonly been done through a scenario, however that may not always be the case. Questions may ask candidates to use a particular aspect of knowledge to explain particular behaviour without the use of a scenario.

Question 2A – Explain two types of conformity**Why was a mark not given for the explanation of internalisation?**

All of the information given about internalisation is either incorrect, or not unique to internalisation.

Question 2B – Explain individual factors affecting conformity**Can you expand on why the text on cultural factors was not awarded a mark?**

The question asks for individual factors, and so marks can only be awarded for these, ie factors which are specific to one individual. Cultural factors affect everyone within a particular culture, and so are not relevant here.

Question 2C – Analyse Milgram**Must candidates discuss other studies in an analysis question to gain full marks?**

No. There are several different ways to gain marks for analysis, and candidates do not need to deal with each exhaustively to gain full marks.

When a statement could gain either an analysis or an evaluation mark, which should be awarded?

If either could be awarded, it is better to award the analysis mark. As this is a higher-order skill, candidates are likely to gain fewer marks for analysis, and this allows them the opportunity to gain more marks for less well-developed points.

Can candidates gain marks for linking the Zimbardo experiment to Milgram?

Yes – however they would need to make very clear, well-reasoned links to do so, as one study measured conformity and the other looked at obedience.