

Please write clearly in block capitals.

Centre number

--	--	--	--	--

Candidate number

--	--	--	--

Surname

Forename(s)

Candidate signature

I declare this is my own work.

INTERNATIONAL A-LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY

Unit 3 Advanced Topics and Research Methods 2

Wednesday 7 January 2026

07:00 UK Time

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- a calculator, which you are expected to use where appropriate.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Fill in the boxes at the top of this page.
- Answer **all** questions.
- You must answer the questions in the spaces provided. Do not write outside the box around each page or on blank pages.
- All working must be shown.
- If you need extra space for your answer(s), use the lined pages at the end of this book. Write the question number against your answer(s).
- Do all rough work in this book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 90.

For Examiner's Use	
Question	Mark
A	
B	
C	
TOTAL	



J A N 2 6 P S 0 3 0 1

Answer **all** questions in the spaces provided.

Jia agrees to take part in a study on the nature of sleep and will spend a night in a sleep laboratory. The researchers will use scientific equipment, such as an electroencephalogram (EEG), to monitor what happens to Jia's brain and body when she is asleep.

[6 marks]

[illegible]



0 2

Briefly evaluate research into the effect of endogenous pacemakers on the sleep/wake cycle.

[4 marks]

0 3

Describe and evaluate **two** explanations for the functions of sleep.

[20 marks]

You may use this space to plan your answer.

Turn over ►



Extra space



Section B: SchizophreniaAnswer **all** questions in the spaces provided.**0 4**

There are many issues with the reliability and validity in the diagnosis of schizophrenia. Two of these issues are symptom overlap and co-morbidity.

What is meant by symptom overlap **and** co-morbidity?

[4 marks]

Symptom overlap _____

Co-morbidity _____

0 5

Explain **one** strength and **one** limitation of the dopamine hypothesis as a biological explanation for schizophrenia.

[4 marks]

Strength _____

Limitation _____



0	7
---	---

The doctor gives David some anti-psychotic drugs to take for the next few months.

The doctor hopes that these will reduce the symptoms of hallucinations, delusions and avolition that David is experiencing.

Using your knowledge of therapies for schizophrenia, explain how anti-psychotic drugs might help treat David's symptoms of schizophrenia.

[4 marks]



[12 marks]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

30

Section C: Research Methods 2

Answer **all** questions in the spaces provided.

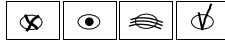
Only **one** answer per question is allowed.

For each multiple-choice question completely fill in the circle alongside the appropriate answer.

CORRECT METHOD



WRONG METHODS



If you want to change your answer you must cross out your original answer as shown.



If you wish to return to an answer previously crossed out, ring the answer you now wish to select as shown.



A psychologist investigated the effects of praise on performance. Previous research had suggested that people will perform better on tasks if they have been given praise after a previous attempt.

The psychologist obtained 30 participants to take part in the study. The participants sat in a room and played a difficult computer game. They had to move a character across different platforms to get as far as they could, without falling off the platforms. The further they moved the character across the platforms, the higher their score. Each participant had five attempts at the game.

The 30 participants were randomly allocated into two groups of 15 participants:

Group 1 (no praise) received no praise from the psychologist.

Group 2 (praise) received praise from the psychologist about how well they had performed after each attempt.

After participants had completed their five attempts, the psychologist recorded the highest score of each participant.



0 9Identify the **type of experiment** used in this study.Shade **one** box only.**[1 mark]**

- | | | |
|----------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| A | Field | ☐ |
| B | Independent groups | ☐ |
| C | Laboratory | ☐ |
| D | Matched pairs | ☐ |
| E | Natural | ☐ |
| F | Repeated measures | ☐ |

1 0Identify the **experimental design** used in this study.Shade **one** box only.**[1 mark]**

- | | | |
|----------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| A | Field | ☐ |
| B | Independent groups | ☐ |
| C | Laboratory | ☐ |
| D | Matched pairs | ☐ |
| E | Natural | ☐ |
| F | Repeated measures | ☐ |

1 1

Identify whether the psychologist should use a directional or non-directional hypothesis for this study. Explain your answer.

[2 marks]

Turn over ►

1 2

The psychologist used a random sampling technique to obtain the 30 participants for the study.

What is meant by random sampling?

[2 marks]

1 3

Evaluate the use of random sampling techniques in psychological research.

[4 marks]

1 4

Before completing the study, the psychologist first conducted a pilot study.

What is meant by a pilot study?

[2 marks]



1 5

Briefly explain why the psychologist decided to conduct a pilot study.

[2 marks]

1 6

The psychologist calculated the mean high score for each group.

Explain how to calculate the mean.

[2 marks]

Turn over for the next question

Turn over ►

1 7

The results of the psychologist's study are shown in **Table 1**.

Table 1 Mean and standard deviation for the high scores in the game for each group.

	Group 1 (No praise)	Group 2 (Praise)
Mean high score	31	48
Standard deviation for high scores	2.9	1.2

What do the mean **and** standard deviation values in **Table 1** suggest about the influence of praise on performance? Explain your answer.

[4 marks]



1 8

The psychologist gathered interval data in this study.

What is meant by interval data?

[2 marks]

1 9

To analyse the results of this study, the psychologist decided to use an unrelated t-test.

Apart from interval data, explain **two other** reasons why it was appropriate for the psychologist to choose an unrelated t-test to analyse the results of this study.

[4 marks]

1

2

Turn over for the next question

Turn over ►

2 0

Briefly outline how the psychologist could have used the test-retest method to assess the reliability of the study.

[2 marks]

2 1

When interpreting the results of a statistical test and drawing conclusions, researchers can sometimes make Type I or Type II errors.

Outline what is meant by a Type II error.

[2 marks]

30**END OF QUESTIONS**

There are no questions printed on this page

*Do not write
outside the
box*

**DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAGE
ANSWER IN THE SPACES PROVIDED**



[illegible]

*Do not write
outside the
box*

[illegible]

Do not write
outside the
box

[illegible]

There are no questions printed on this page

*Do not write
outside the
box*

**DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAGE
ANSWER IN THE SPACES PROVIDED**

Copyright information

For confidentiality purposes, all acknowledgements of third-party copyright material are published in a separate booklet. This booklet is published after each live examination series and is available for free download from www.oxfordaqa.com

Permission to reproduce all copyright material has been applied for. In some cases, efforts to contact copyright-holders may have been unsuccessful and OxfordAQA will be happy to rectify any omissions of acknowledgements. If you have any queries please contact the Copyright Team.

Copyright © 2026 OxfordAQA International Examinations and its licensors. All rights reserved.



2 4



2 6 1 X P S 0 3

IB/G/Jan26/PS03