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Cambridge Assessment International Education

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CANDIDATE NAME

CENTRE NUMBER

CANDIDATE NUMBER

0209984674

PSYCHOLOGY **9990/12**

Paper 1 Approaches, Issues and Debates **October/November 2025**

1 hour 30 minutes

You must answer on the question paper.

No additional materials are needed.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **all** questions.
- Use a black or dark blue pen. You may use an HB pencil for any diagrams or graphs.
- Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the boxes at the top of the page.
- Write your answer to each question in the space provided.
- Do **not** use an erasable pen or correction fluid.
- Do **not** write on any bar codes.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 60.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [ ].

This document has **12** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

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Section A

Answer **all** questions.

1 From the study by Milgram (obedience):

(a) State the number of participants who pressed the maximum shock level switch (450 volts).

..... [1]

(b) One example of a sign of tension shown by the participants in this study was nervous laughter.

Identify **two** other signs of tension shown by the participants.

1 .....

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2 .....

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[2]

(c) Before the study, fourteen psychology students from Yale University were told about the procedure of the study.

Outline what these students were asked to predict about the study.

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..... [2]

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2 From the study by Bandura et al. (aggression):

(a) One conclusion was that boys are more likely to imitate aggressive behaviour than girls.

Outline **one** other conclusion from this study.

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..... [2]

(b) Outline **one** weakness of this study in relation to the sample of participants.

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..... [2]

3 In the study by Piliavin et al. (subway Samaritans), there were:
- models
- victims (acting drunk or acting ill).

(a) Identify **two** features of the models used in this study.

1 .....

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2 .....

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[2]

(b) Outline **one** result in relation to the victim acting drunk before any model gave help.

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..... [2]

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4 Describe how Hassett et al. followed ethical guidelines in relation to animals in their study about monkey toy preferences.

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..... [4]

5 From the study by Hölzel et al. (mindfulness and brain scans):

(a) 'Acting with awareness' was a factor measured by the 'Five Facet Mindfulness Questionnaire'.

Outline what is meant by 'acting with awareness' in this study.

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(b) Outline **one** strength of the Five Facet Mindfulness Questionnaire as used in this study.

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6 **(a)** In the background to their study, Perry et al. outlined how biological factors affect interpersonal distance (personal space) preferences.

Outline how biological factors affect interpersonal distance (personal space) preferences.

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..... [3]

(b) Two friends, Alexandre and Derek are discussing the ethics of the study by Perry et al. (personal space).

Alexandre says the study is ethical, but Derek says it is **not** ethical.

Outline **one** reason why Alexandre is correct and **one** reason why Derek is correct.

Alexandre .....

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Derek .....

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[4]

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7 The debate about individual and situational explanations relates to the study by Dement and Kleitman (sleep and dreams).

Outline what is meant by this debate, including **one** example from the individual explanation and **one** example from the situational explanation from the study by Dement and Kleitman.

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8 Carole, a language teacher, has noticed that her students have difficulty concentrating when listening to a recording of people talking in a second language. Her students have difficulty recalling the information from this recording. Carole needs to help her students and has come to you for advice.

Using your knowledge of the study by Andrade (doodling):

(a) Outline the advice you would give to Carole.

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..... [4]

(b) Explain **one** reason for **one** piece of advice you outlined in part **(a)**.

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..... [2]

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Section B

Answer **all** questions.

9 From the study by Saavedra and Silverman (button phobia):

(a) Describe the participant used in this study.

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(b) Explain **one** similarity and **one** difference between the study by Saavedra and Silverman (button phobia) and the study by Bandura et al. (aggression). Do **not** refer to sampling in your answer.

Similarity .....

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Difference .....

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[8]

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10 Evaluate the study by Pozzulo et al. (line-ups) in terms of **two** strengths and **two** weaknesses. At least one of your evaluation points **must** be about ecological validity.

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