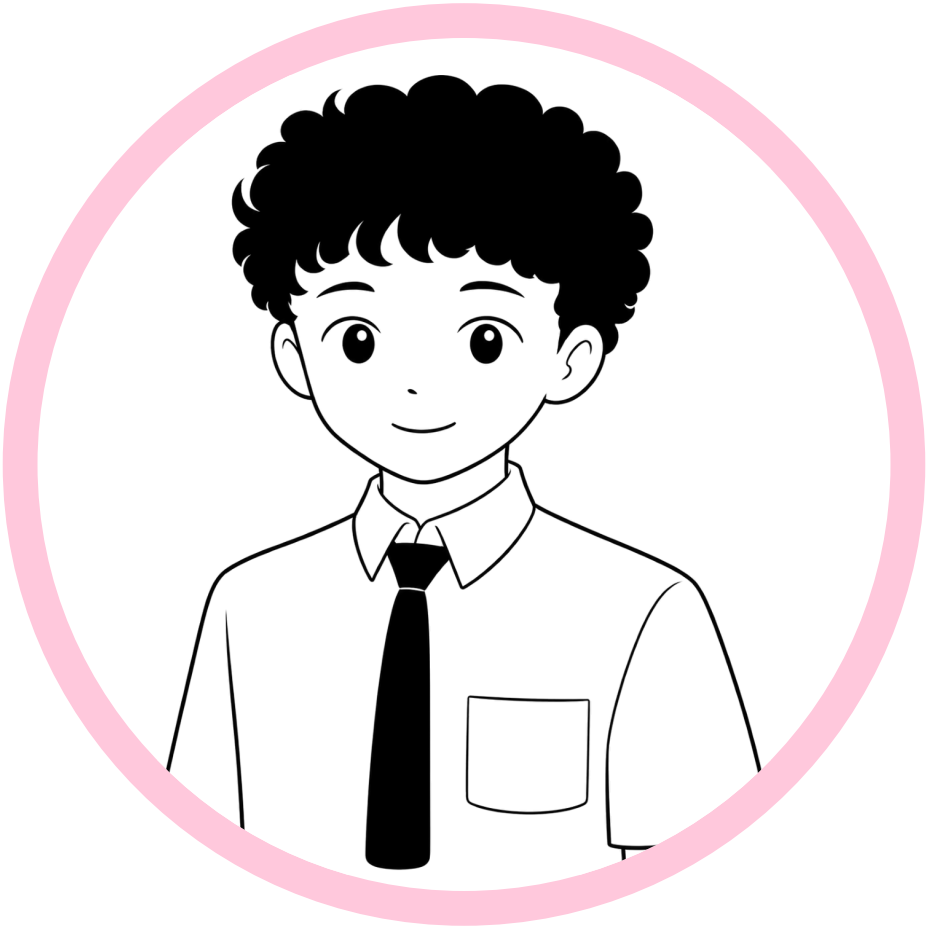
AQA A-LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY · 7182

PSYCHOLOGY



MARK SCHEME

3.2.3.1 THE ECONOMY

SCORE	PERCENTAGE
/24	%

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Q1.

[AO2 = 2]

2 marks for a clear and coherent explanation of how research into treating depression might have implications for the economy.

1 mark for a vague or muddled explanation.

Possible content:

- psychological research findings into psychopathology may lead to improvements in psychological health/treatment programmes which may mean that people manage their health better and take less time off work. This would reduce costs to the economy
- psychological research findings may lead to better ways of managing people who are prone to mental health issues whilst they are at work which could improve their individual productivity, again boosting the economy overall
- 'cutting-edge' scientific research findings into treatments for mental health issues carried out in UK may encourage investment from overseas companies into this country which could boost the economy
- providing effective treatments might be a significant financial burden to an NHS service already under huge financial strain
- discovering that new treatments may be more effective than older therapies and that these may be more expensive so could increase the financial burden to the economy.

Credit other relevant explanations.

Q2.

[AO2 = 4]

Level	Marks	Description
2	3 – 4	Explanation of how psychology / social influence research might affect the economy is clear. There is effective application to the example of eating healthily. The answer is generally coherent with effective use of terminology.
1	1 – 2	There is limited / partial explanation of how psychology / social influence research might affect the economy. There is limited application to the example of eating healthily. The answer lacks coherence. Use of terminology is either absent or inappropriate.
	0	No relevant content.

Possible content:

- Social influence research tells us how behaviour and attitudes can be changed: eg how minority influence can be exerted or how people tend to conform to perceived norms (or reference to any other relevant social influence process).

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- In this case, the resulting change of eating more healthily means that people should be more healthy.
- Economic implication: eg saves health service / care resources; means less time off work sick.

Credit other relevant information.

Q3.

[AO2 = 2]

2 marks for a clear and coherent explanation of one way in which research into treating depression might have implications for the economy

1 mark for a vague or muddled explanation.

Possible content:

Finding an effective treatment would reduce the number of days people have off work sick so improving productivity

Q4.

(a) **[AO2 = 4]**

2 marks for identifying two factors that are relevant for use of the sign test: nominal/categorical data; test of difference; related design/repeated measures.

Plus

Up to 2 marks for application of these to the investigation described:
- Nominal data as patients are assigned to one of three categories – 'improved', 'deteriorated' or 'neither'.
- Testing for difference in the number of absences in the year following and prior to treatment.
- Repeated measures as the same patients' work records are compared before and after treatment.

(b) **[AO2 = 2]**

1 mark for identifying the correct value of s as 5

Plus

1 mark for explanation/calculation of how this was arrived at:
- The most commonly occurring sign is + (12) and the least frequently occurring sign is – (5). The 0s are disregarded.
- The total for the least frequently occurring sign is the value of s = 5

(c) **[AO2 = 2]**

1 mark for stating that the value of s (5) is not significant at the 0.05 level.

Plus

1 mark for explanation:
- The critical value is 4. As the calculated value is higher than/exceeds the

critical value, the result is significant not at the 0.05 level.

Accept alternative wording

(d) **[AO3 = 3]**

Marks may be awarded for a single point that is expanded/elaborated or more than one point briefly stated.

1 mark only if there is no reference to the investigation described.

Possible points:

- Primary data are obtained ‘first-hand’ from the participants themselves so are likely to lead to greater insight: e.g. into the patients' experience of treatment, whether they found it beneficial, negative, etc.
- Secondary data, such as time off work, may not be a valid measure of improvement in symptoms of depression. Primary data are more authentic and provide more than a surface understanding: e.g. participants may have taken time off work for reasons not related to their depression.
- The content of the data is more likely to match the researcher’s needs and objectives because questions, assessment tools, etc. can be specifically tailored: e.g. an interview may produce more valid data than a list of absences.

(e) **[AO1 = 3 AO2 = 2]**

Level	Marks	Description
3	4 – 5	Knowledge of the implications of psychological research for the economy is clear. Application to the investigation described is effective. The answer is coherent with effective use of terminology.
2	2 – 3	Some knowledge of the implications of psychological research for the economy is present but there is a lack of detail/clarity. Application to the investigation described is limited or absent. Terminology is used appropriately on occasion.
1	1	An implication of psychological research for the economy is briefly stated.
	0	No relevant content.

AO1 – possible content:

- Psychological research may lead to improvements in psychological health/treatment programmes which may mean that people manage their health better and take less time off work.
- Absence from work costs the economy an estimated 15 billion a year annually and much of this absence is due to ‘mild’ mental illness: e.g. stress, anxiety.
- Psychological research may lead to better ways of managing people whilst they are at work to improve productivity: e.g. research into motivation and workplace stress.
- ‘Cutting-edge’ scientific research may encourage investment from

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overseas companies into this country.

Credit other relevant points/implications, including examples not linked to psychopathology.

AO2 – application

- If research (such as the investigation described) suggests that depressives are better able to manage their condition following CBT and return to work, then it may benefit the economy to make treatment more widely available, improve funding, etc.
- Psychological research such as this plays an important role in sustaining a healthy workforce and reducing absenteeism.

Credit other relevant application points.

Q1.

This question was generally answered well by most students. Many responses focused on the fact that people could go back to work and generate money for the economy. A number of responses also focused on the cost implications to the NHS, such as a comparison of drugs being cheaper than CBT or the cost of training therapists for CBT compared to drugs. In some responses the link to the economy was not clearly explained and these responses were only awarded one mark. Responses that were not linked to the treatment of depression did not gain any marks.