

AQA A-LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY • 7182

# PSYCHOLOGY



**EXAM QUESTION PACK**

**3.2.3.1 THE ECONOMY**

**SCORE**

**/24**

**PERCENTAGE**

**%**

**STEMUP**

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**Q1.**

Explain how findings of psychological research into the treatment of depression could have implications for the economy.

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**(Total 2 marks)**

**Q2.**

Social influence research helps us to understand how it is possible to change people's behaviour: for example, understanding how to persuade people to eat more healthily.

With reference to this example of social change, explain how psychology might affect the economy.

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**(Total 4 marks)**

**Q3.**

Briefly explain how the findings of psychological research into treating depression could have implications for the economy.

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**(Total 2 marks)**

**Q4.**

A researcher wanted to see whether cognitive behaviour therapy was an effective

treatment for depression. Twenty depressed patients who had all recently completed a course of cognitive behaviour therapy were involved in the investigation. From their employment records, the researcher kept a record of the number of absences from work each patient had in the year following their treatment. This was compared with the number of absences from work each patient had in the year prior to their treatment.

Those patients who had fewer absences from work in the year following their treatment than in the year prior to their treatment were classified as 'improved' (+). Those patients who had more absences were classified as 'deteriorated' (-). Those patients who had the same number of absences were classified as 'neither' (0).

The results of the investigation are included in **Table 1** below.

**Table 1**

| Patient | Improved | Deteriorated | Neither |
|---------|----------|--------------|---------|
| 1       | +        |              |         |
| 2       |          |              | 0       |
| 3       |          | —            |         |
| 4       | +        |              |         |
| 5       | +        |              |         |
| 6       | +        |              |         |
| 7       |          | —            |         |
| 8       |          | —            |         |
| 9       |          |              | 0       |
| 10      | +        |              |         |
| 11      |          | —            |         |
| 12      | +        |              |         |
| 13      | +        |              |         |
| 14      | +        |              |         |
| 15      | +        |              |         |
| 16      |          | —            |         |
| 17      | +        |              |         |
| 18      | +        |              |         |
| 19      | +        |              |         |
| 20      |          |              | 0       |

The researcher decided to use the sign test to analyse the data.

- (a) Explain **two** factors that the researcher had to take into account when deciding to use the sign test. Refer to the investigation above in your answer.

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(4)

- (b) Calculate the sign test value of  $s$  for the data in **Table 1**. Explain how you reached your answer.

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(2)

**Table 2: Critical values for the sign test**

| n  | 0.005 (one<br>tailed)<br>0.01 (two<br>tailed) | 0.01 (one<br>tailed)<br>0.02 (two<br>tailed) | 0.025 (one<br>tailed)<br>0.05 (two<br>tailed) | 0.05 (one<br>tailed)<br>0.10 (two<br>tailed) |
|----|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 16 | 2                                             | 2                                            | 3                                             | 4                                            |
| 17 | 2                                             | 3                                            | 4                                             | 4                                            |
| 18 | 3                                             | 3                                            | 4                                             | 5                                            |

For significance, the value of the less frequent sign is equal to, or less than, the value of the table.

- (c) With reference to the critical values in **Table 2**, explain whether or not the value of  $s$  that you calculated in response to **question (b)** is significant at the 0.05 level for a two tailed test.

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(2)

- (d) The investigation above is based on secondary data.

In what ways would the use of primary data have improved this investigation?

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(3)

- (e) Outline the implications of psychological research for the economy. Refer to the investigation above in your answer.

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(5)

(Total 16 marks)

## Mark schemes

### 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).

- 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

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.

## Examiner reports

### 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.