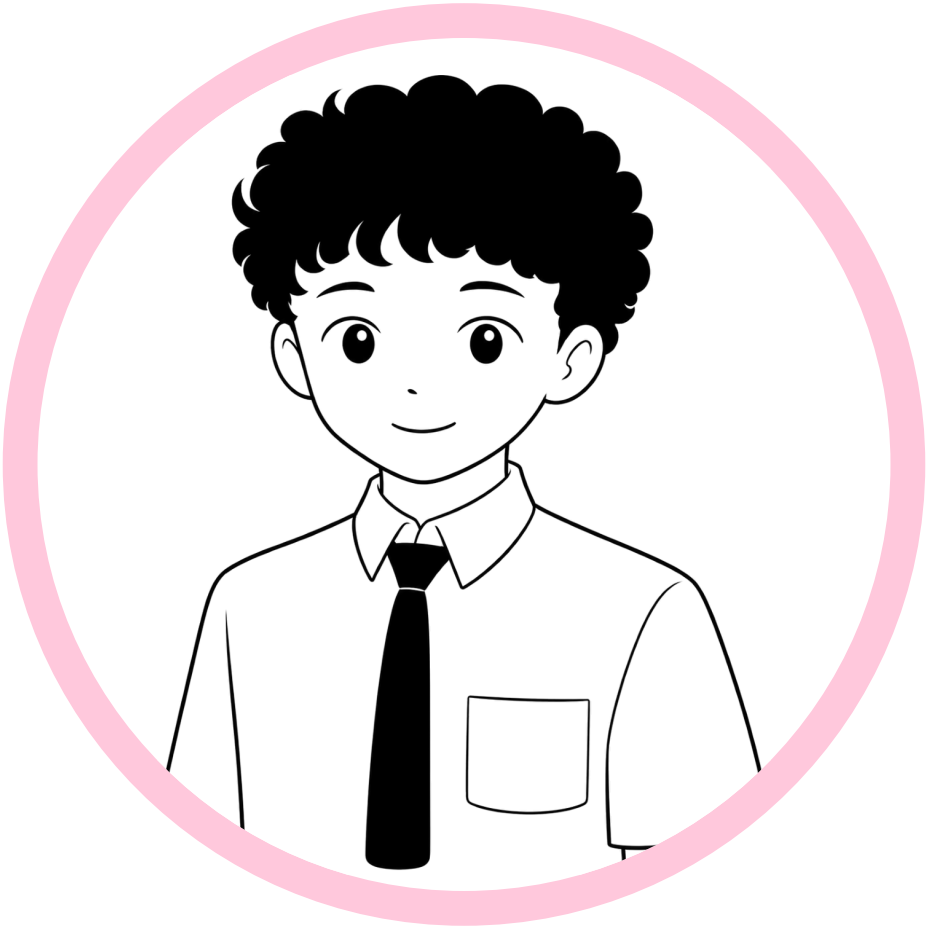
AQA A-LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY · 7182

PSYCHOLOGY



EXAM QUESTION PACK

3.3.1 HOLISM AND REDUCTIONISM

SCORE	PERCENTAGE
/46	%

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Q1.

Cultural relativism, ethnocentrism, holism and universality are four concepts relevant to issues and debates in psychology.

Definition
A Appreciating that behaviour varies between cultures
B Believing that some behaviours are the same for all cultures
C Considering all aspects of experience, including culture
D Emphasising the importance of the behaviour of one's own culture
E Understanding that whole cultures have the same experience

Look at the table above.

- Which definition (**A-E**) best describes cultural relativism?
- Which definition (**A-E**) best describes ethnocentrism?
- Which definition (**A-E**) best describes holism?
- Which definition (**A-E**) best describes universality?

In your answer book, list the four concepts and write the appropriate letter (A-E) next to each one. A letter may only be used once.

(Total 4 marks)

Q2.

A psychology student carried out a study of excitement at a theme park. She measured the heart rate of people waiting in the queue for a roller coaster.

The student's tutor said, 'Using heart rate as a measure of excitement is an example of biological reductionism.'

(a) Explain why measuring heart rate in this situation could be an example of biological reductionism.

(2)

(b) Outline **two** non-biological ways of measuring excitement that the student could also use in this situation.

(4)

(Total 6 marks)

Q3.

Explain **one** strength and **one** limitation of a reductionist approach in psychology.

(Total 4 marks)

Q4.

Which of the following best describes a reductionist approach in psychology?
Write **A**, **B**, **C**, or **D** in your answer book.

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A Explaining behaviour in a complicated way in terms of complex mechanisms.

B Explaining behaviour in a simple way in terms of basic units.

C Explaining behaviour in one way and ignoring all other explanations.

D Explaining behaviour in several different ways at the same time.

(Total 1 mark)

Q5.

Briefly outline what psychologists mean by 'levels of explanation'.

(Total 2 marks)

Q6.

Outline and evaluate reductionist explanations in psychology.

(Total 8 marks)

Q7.

Read the item and then answer the questions that follow.

Dr Grant and Dr Austin both study people with depression. Dr Grant carries out experimental research to investigate the brain chemistry of people with depression. Dr Austin carries out unstructured interviews with people with depression to find out about their symptoms and various aspects of their lives, including their general behaviour and their relationships.

(a) Referring to the item above, explain what is meant by holism and reductionism.

(4)

(b) Suggest **one** way in which Dr Austin might take account of ethical considerations when carrying out the interviews.

(1)

(Total 5 marks)

Q8.

'The best way to understand and explain behaviour is to reduce it to the simplest component parts.'

In the context of the holism-reductionism debate, discuss this view. Refer to **at least one** topic in your answer.

(Total 16 marks)

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