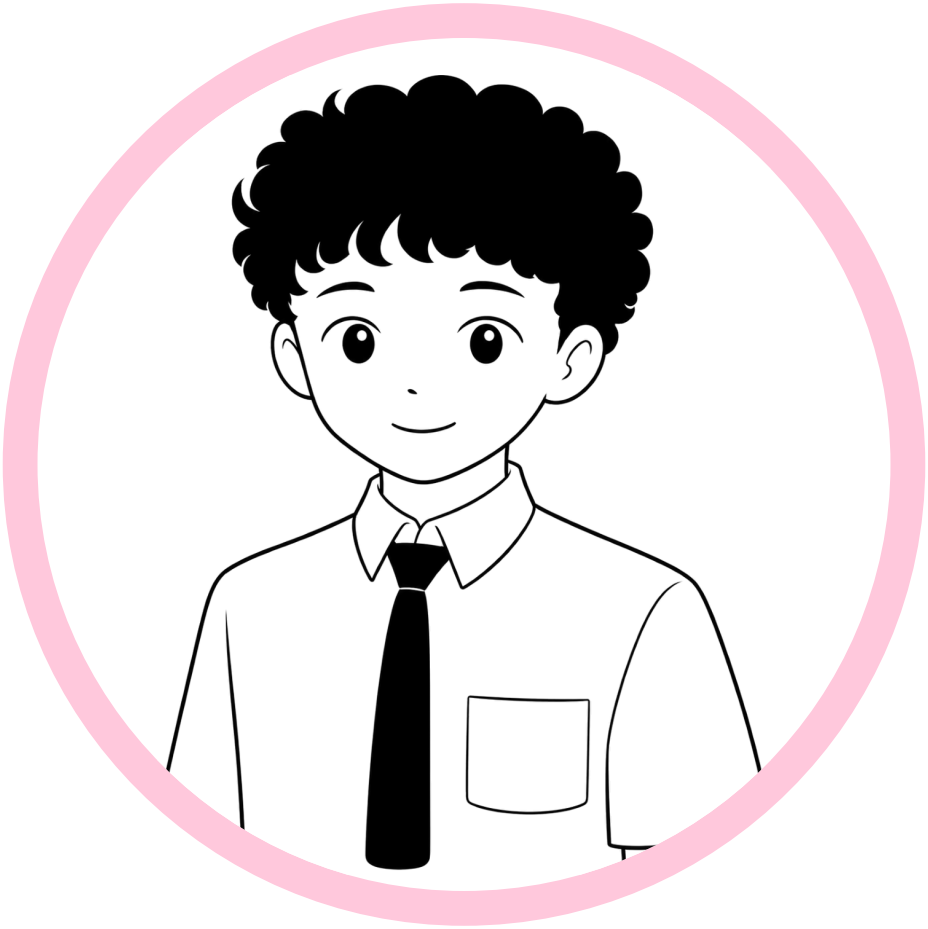
AQA A-LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY · 7182

PSYCHOLOGY



MARK SCHEME

3.3.1 IDIOGRAPHIC AND NOMOTHETIC APPROACHES

SCORE	PERCENTAGE
/10	%

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Q1.

[AO1 = 1 AO3 = 1]

1 mark for a brief, clear definition: a nomothetic approach involves studying a sample in order to formulate general laws / principles of behaviour (or similar).

Plus

1 mark for a brief, coherent limitation.

Possible limitations:

- cannot find out rich / in-depth information about single cases
- less meaningful as tends to use quantitative measures.

Credit other relevant limitations.

[2]

Q2.

[AO1 = 1]

1 mark

B

Q3.

[AO3 = 6]

Level	Marks	Description
3	5 – 6	Proposals for developing the research by taking a nomothetic approach are clear and appropriate. Explanation is mostly effective. Specialist terminology is mostly used effectively. There is clear focus on the question.
2	3 – 4	Proposals for developing the research by taking a nomothetic approach are apparent and mostly appropriate. Explanation is partly effective. The answer lacks clarity, accuracy and organisation in places. Specialist terminology is used inappropriately on occasions.
1	1 – 2	There is some useful proposal of how the researcher could develop the research by taking a nomothetic approach. Explanation is limited and / or poorly focused. The answer as a whole lacks clarity, has inaccuracies and is poorly organised. Specialist terminology is often used inappropriately.
	0	No relevant content.

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Explanation possible points:

- taking a nomothetic approach would involve the researcher testing a larger sample of offenders
- sampling should involve a method of sample selection to give representativeness of a larger population, eg random sampling of the prison population
- the researcher would probably use a testable hypothesis, eg violent offenders have more negative thoughts about childhood than non-violent offenders
- taking a nomothetic approach would involve collection of a large amount of data
- analysis would probably involve quantitative methods, eg statistical testing and the drawing of conclusions in relation to a wider population
- credit also comparison of the worth of idiographic and nomothetic approaches, eg how idiographic investigations yield information that is rich, in-depth (journals inform about the precise nature of the negative thoughts enabling greater insight) whereas nomothetic investigations enable the formulation of general laws, eg offenders have a more negative view of their childhood.

Credit other relevant explanatory points.

Q4.

[AO1 = 1]

C

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Q1.

Definitions were not always clear and there was often confusion with generalisation. Mere statements that the nomothetic approach did not take account of individual differences were not sufficient as a limitation without some explanation.

Q2.

This question was answered correctly by 71% of students.