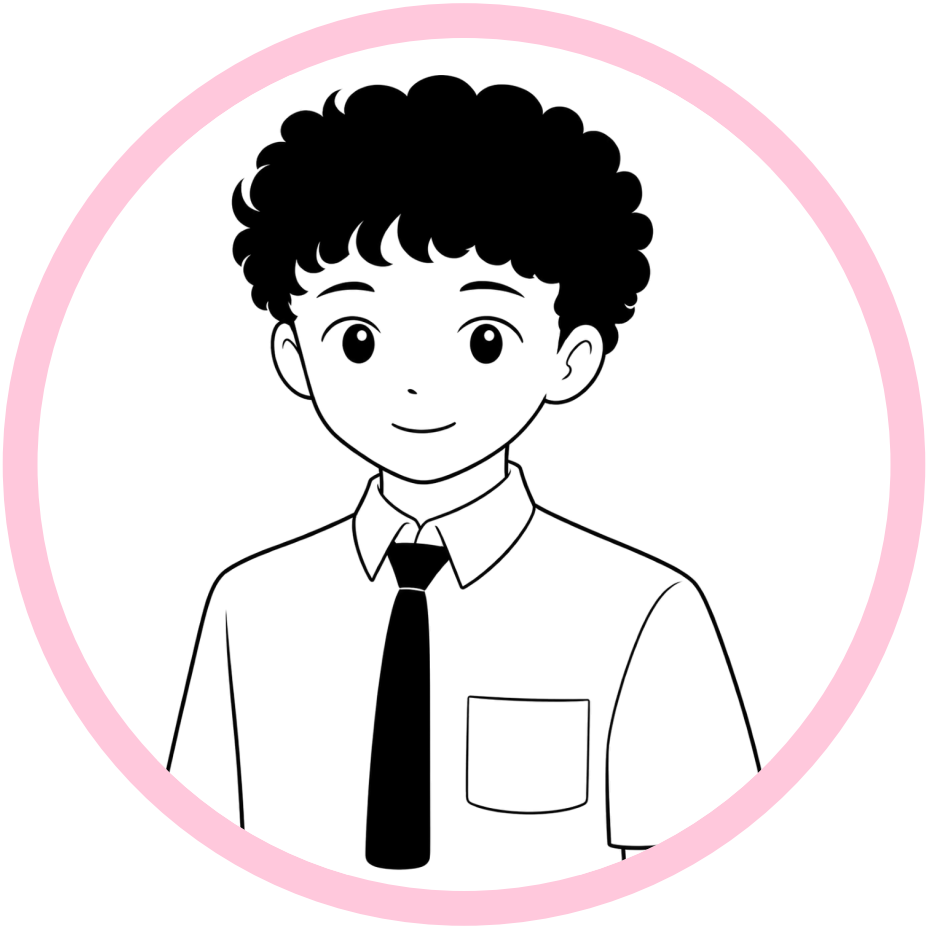
AQA A-LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY · 7182

PSYCHOLOGY



EXAM QUESTION PACK

3.3.1 IDIOGRAPHIC AND NOMOTHETIC APPROACHES

SCORE	PERCENTAGE
/10	%

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Q1.

What is a ‘nomothetic approach’? Suggest **one** limitation of a nomothetic approach.

(Total 2 marks)

Q2.

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

A Studying individuals in order to establish general laws of behaviour.

B Studying individuals without intending to establish general laws of behaviour.

C Studying large samples in order to establish general laws of behaviour.

D Studying large samples without intending to establish general laws of behaviour.

(Total 1 mark)

Q3.

Read the item and then answer the question that follows.

> A prison psychologist used an idiographic approach to study offending. He asked two offenders to record their thoughts about their childhood and their offending behaviour in a journal over a period of four weeks.
>
> Qualitative analysis of the journals showed that the offenders often thought about sad childhood events and believed that their childhood experiences had influenced their offending.
>
> Findings from idiographic research like the study described above are often used as a basis for other investigations.

Explain how the researcher might develop the above investigation through taking a nomothetic approach.

(Total 6 marks)

Q4.

Which of the following statements best describes a nomothetic approach in psychology?
Shade **one** box only.

Psychologists taking a nomothetic approach…

A study single cases and do not formulate general laws. ⬭

B study groups of people and do not formulate general laws. ⬭

C study groups of people and formulate general laws. ⬭

D study single cases and formulate general laws. ⬭

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(Total 1 mark)

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