

# AS PSYCHOLOGY ANSWERING EXAM QUESTIONS

OCR SECTION B QUESTIONS

# GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR SECTION B QUESTIONS

- Choose **ONE** study from a choice of three & answer the given questions in relation to that chosen study.
- Focus is **knowledge** of study (aim, sample, etc.) with understanding of **methods** & **issues**.
- The questions (a – f) will follow the same format. Usually **progressive**: simplest to hardest.
- Marks will always **total 36** but allocation per question may differ.
- Number of marks per question indicates how much detail is needed for each answer.

## a) What was the **aim** of your chosen study?(3)

- Must be *accurate*, with *appropriate detail* & show *good understanding*.
- *Good expression & psychological terminology*
- Eg. **Milgram**: The aim of this study was to investigate the level of obedience shown when subjects were told to administer electric shocks to a learner
- **Reicher & Haslam**:
- **Piliavin**:

b) Describe the **sample** used in your chosen study and give one limitation (6)

- Describe sample (3): must be *accurate* with *elaboration* (eg; numbers, ages, genders, etc)
- Eg; **Reicher & Haslam**: 15 males, volunteers, diverse age/social class/ethnicity, screened for personality, medical & police checks.
- One limitation (3): *Appropriate, accurate description with elaboration.*
- Eg. All volunteers; this means that sample could be biased to a particular sort of person. For example they may be more outgoing or enthusiastic than the rest of the population and therefore unrepresentative.

## c) Describe the **procedure** in your chosen study (6)

- Description is accurate with few omissions.
- Understanding is very good with some fine details (but appropriate to time allowed)
- Good expression & use of psychological terminology
- Eg; **Piliavin:**
  - - NY subway (8th Ave. line), April - June 1968, hours 11am -3pm.
  - - Teams of 4 (2 observers, one model, one victim; b/w, drunk/lame)
  - Entered carriage by different doors, victim collapses after 70 seconds. Observers recorded race, sex, no. etc, etc...

d) Give one advantage & one disadvantage of **experimental** studies (6)

- Must be *accurate* & show *elaboration*
- Possible advantages:
  - control over variables
  - Replication
  - can show cause & effect relationship
- Disadvantages:
  - low ecological validity
  - Experimenter effects/bias
  - Ethics
- 3 marks for each:
  - Identify point
  - Give example from study (any)
  - Comment

e) Suggest two **changes** to your study & outline methodological implications (8)

- Changes to study (2 x 2): location, task, sample, method, etc.
- Must be *clear & specific*
- *Good explanation with expansion*
- Implications: (2 x 2): validity, reliability, demand characteristics, experimenter effects/bias
- Give *effective analysis & argument* for change
- *Explain effect* on study/procedure
- Show *understanding*
- Overall structure: Paragraph with change & implication x 2

## f) Outline the **results** of your chosen study (8)

- *Accurate description with few omissions*
- *Detail appropriate to time allowed (7-8 minutes)*
- *Understanding is very good (may draw conclusions from study)*
- *Expression & psychological terminology is very good*
- *Well structured & organised*
- Eg. **Milgram:**
  - Quantitative data; level of shock given to learner - 100% to 300vts, 65% - 450vts
  - Qualitative data; observations; sweating, trembling, crying, laughing, 3 convulsions.
  - Conclusive point; internal conflict (automic/agentive state)
  - Situational explanation for behaviour.