

Past-paper walk-through

Social-Cognitive and Trait Theories of Personality ■ 4.5

eXercise

Questions in this set

- 2024 Set 1 Q2 ■ 7 marks
- 2024 Set 2 Q2 ■ 7 marks
- 2023 Set 2 Q1 ■ 7 marks

Reading the mark scheme

- **B1** a mark that stands on its own – the point is either made or not.
- **M1** a *method* mark: the right approach, even if the number is wrong.
- **A1** an *answer* mark, and it usually needs its M mark first.
- **C1** a working mark on the way to the answer.
- **//** separates answers the examiner accepts equally.
- **ecf** = error carried forward: a later part is marked on your own earlier answer.
- **owtte** = “or words to that effect” – the wording need not match.

Question 2

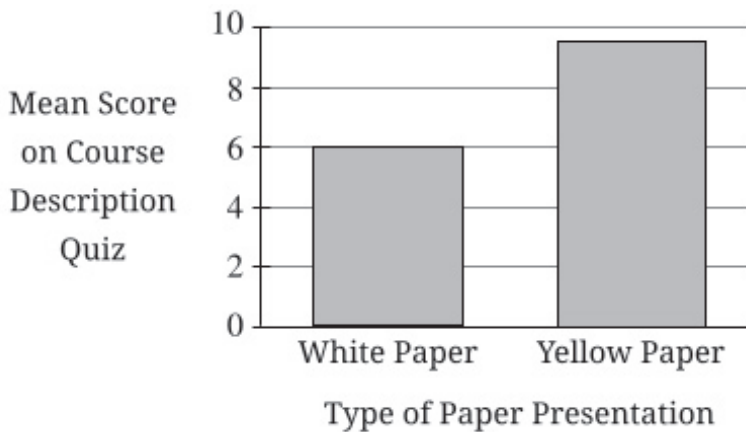
2024 Set 1 ■ Q2 ■ 7 marks

Research Design. Professor Gonzalez hypothesizes that students will remember more information from his detailed course description if it is printed on yellow paper than if it is printed on standard white paper. To test this hypothesis, he put the names of all his students into a bowl, then drew out names to assign them to two different groups. He gave one group of the students in his class a course description printed on white paper, and gave the other group of students a course description printed on yellow paper. Students were instructed to thoroughly read the description outside of class in preparation for their next class. In the next class, he gave all students a ten-question quiz asking them about the information found on the course description. Professor Gonzalez then compared the number of correct answers for each group of students. The statistically significant results are depicted in the graph. Part A ■ State the operational definition of the dependent variable. ■ Identify the experimental group. ■

Question 2

In addition to the manipulation of an independent variable, identify the procedure Professor Gonzalez used to make this study a true experiment. ■ Explain how the data as presented in the graph do or do not support Professor Gonzalez's hypothesis. Part B Explain how each of the following might relate to a student's performance on any quiz. ■ Context-dependent memory ■ Yerkes-Dodson law ■ Low level of the Big Five trait of conscientiousness

Question 2



Solution 2

- Research Design, 7 points. Points — State the operational definition of the dependent variable. — Response must indicate that the dependent variable is operationally defined as the student's score on the course description quiz. | Identify the experimental group. — Response must indicate that the experimental group is the group with the course description printed on yellow paper. | Explain how the data as presented in the graph do or do not support Professor Gonzalez's hypothesis. — Response must indicate that data support the hypothesis because the experimental group (i.e., the yellow paper group) scored higher on the test.
- General notes: spelling and grammar do not reduce a score; a definition alone does not earn a point, the concept must be applied to the scenario.

Question 2

2024 Set 2 ■ Q2 ■ 7 marks

Research Design. Dr. Dawson is a psychologist who believes that students who read motivational statements before a test will experience lower levels of anxiety as compared with students who read neutral statements. To examine this belief, he conducted a study. In the study, he randomly assigned half of the participants to read motivational statements and the other half to read neutral statements. Immediately after reading the statements, all of the students completed a survey about their current level of anxiety (1 = low; 8 = high) and then took the test. Dr. Dawson found statistically significant results that are depicted in the graph.

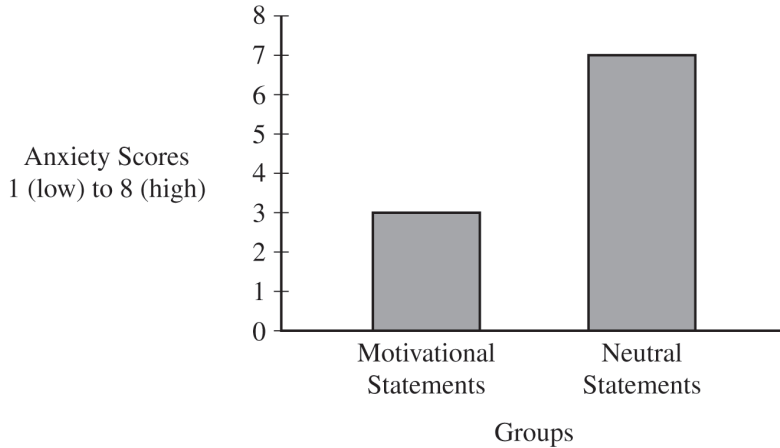
Part A ■ State a valid operational definition of the dependent variable in this study. ■ Identify the control group in this study. ■ Explain why the study would be considered an experiment. ■ Explain how the results of the study do or do not support Dr. Dawson's hypothesis.

Part B The test Dr. Dawson gave was a vocabulary test. Explain how the following

Question 2

terms might relate to the students who performed poorly on the test in this study. ■
External locus
of control ■ Stage one of Selye's general adaptation syndrome ■ Crystallized intelligence

Question 2



Solution 2

- Research Design, 7 points. Points — State a valid operational definition of the dependent variable in this study. — Response must indicate that anxiety is defined by their score on the scale/survey of their anxiety. | Identify the control group in this study. — Response must indicate that the control group is the group that reads the neutral statements. | Explain how the results of the study do or do not support Dr. Dawson's hypothesis. — Response must indicate that Dr. Dawson's hypothesis is supported because either the motivational statement group had lower anxiety or the neutral statement group had higher anxiety.
- General notes: spelling and grammar do not reduce a score; a definition alone does not earn a point, the concept must be applied to the scenario.

Question 1

2023 Set 2 ■ Q1 ■ 7 marks

Concept Application. Part A Jordan recently moved to a new school for her senior year of high school, and she has been adjusting to her new environment. Explain how each of the following relates to Jordan's adjustment to her new school. ■ Spotlight effect ■ Cognitive map ■ Jordan's low level of the Big Five trait of extraversion Part B Jordan tries out for and makes the debate team. Jordan has made friends with other members of the team, and she really enjoys sitting with them at lunch every day. The coach is impressed with Jordan's debate skills, so he makes her captain of the team. When Jordan starts to help the coach plan for the next big debate, her friends stop sitting with her at lunch. She then stops helping the coach plan for the next debate but ends up winning it. Explain how each of the following concepts relates to the scenario. ■ Negative punishment ■ Formal operational stage of cognitive development ■ Actor-observer bias concerning Jordan's debate performance ■ Jordan's high level of

Question 1

self-efficacy

Solution 1

- Concept Application, 7 points. Points — Explain how each of the following relates to Jordan's adjustment to her new school. Spotlight effect — Response must indicate that Jordan overestimates how much the people at her new school are paying attention to/judging her. | Explain how each of the following concepts relates to the scenario. Negative punishment — Response must indicate that because Jordan's friends stop sitting with her at lunch, she stops helping the coach plan for the next debate. | Explain how each of the following concepts relates to the scenario. Question 2: Research Design 7 points Peripheral route to persuasion — Response must indicate that the advertisements utilize factors other than the quality of the game (e.g., bright colors, lively music, or celebrities shown

Solution 1

in the ads) to persuade consumers. OR Response must indicate that the person exposed to the advertisement is persuaded by factors other than quality of the game (e.g., bright colors, lively music, or celebrities shown in the ads).

- General notes: spelling and grammar do not reduce a score; a definition alone does not earn a point, the concept must be applied to the scenario.