

# EΨ

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For IB HL Psychology  
First Assessment 2027



# Paper 1

# Model Answers

For Sections A and B

Section A: Two short-answer questions designed to assess knowledge and content from two of the three content areas (biological, cognitive, sociocultural).

Biological approach to understanding human behaviour

1. Describe how one chemical messenger plays a role in one human behaviour. (4 marks)

Ans. One chemical messenger is the **neurotransmitter dopamine**. This chemical,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]. This has been demonstrated to

be the case with interpersonal love in an experiment by **Fisher, Aron and Brown**.

Using fMRI (functional magnetic resonance imaging) technology, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] s how a single chemical messenger can significantly influence human behavior, such as promoting romantic love through the brain's reward system.

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complete answer**

Cognitive approach to understanding human behaviour

2. Explain anchoring bias with reference to one example of human behaviour. (4 marks)

**Ans.** Anchoring bias is a cognitive bias, or error in thinking, that is the human tendency to **rely** [redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted] they often resort to this bias, as demonstrated by **Tversky and Kahneman** in their experiment.

[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

Thus, this study effectively showed how anchoring bias influences cognitive decision-making as [redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

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**Section B: Two compulsory short answer questions that are designed to assess the student's ability to apply knowledge to a new situation or in a new scenario**

**Read the following case study and answer the questions that follow**

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Riya is a 17-year-old student preparing for her final exams. She often finds it difficult to remember information from her textbooks, especially if she only reads them once. Her psychology teacher suggests that instead of simply reading the material, she should use strategies like rehearsing aloud, breaking down the information into smaller parts, and making revision flashcards. After trying these strategies consistently, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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complete question**

3 . With reference to this case study, explain the role of models in the study of cognitive processes. (6 marks)

**Ans.** The relevant cognitive process in Riya's case is **memory** and a model like the **multistore model of memory (MSM)** presented by Atkinson and Shiffrin helps study how it works. This model proposes that three interactive stores, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

In the case of Riya, since she only **reads her textbooks once, she attends to information** and it must enter her STM. But since she **doesn't** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thus, this study shows that models in the study of cognitive processes can help understand the sequence and steps in the process simply. In the case of Riya, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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complete answer**

4. One explanation for how Riya improves her academic performance is Social Learning Theory.

Explain how social learning theory could explain how she achieves her goal.

(6 marks)

**Ans.** Riya's goal is to improve her academic performance. Social learning theory by Bandura proposes that through **observation and imitation of a role model**, goals can be successfully achieved. The **cognitive processes of** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED].

In Riya's situation, **Aarav is her role model**. To achieve her goal, she **carefully notes his actions** related to academic performance such as [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Thus, social learning theory is used to achieve Riya's goal as she learns how to perform better in tests through a model [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED].

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# About the Author

With **over 12 years of international teaching experience**, **JYOTIKA VARMANI** has guided students across the world to achieve **7s in IBDP Psychology**, A\*s in Cambridge, AQA, Edexcel and OCR A-Levels Psychology, 5s in AP Psychology and top grades in GCSE and IGCSE Psychology. Her students study across the UK, UAE, India, Australia, New Zealand, Europe and the US.

Known for **highly exam-focused teaching**, detailed essay training and markscheme-based preparation, she specializes in simplifying difficult psychological concepts into clear, structured answers that match exactly what examiners expect in IBDP Psychology. Her excellent mentorship encourages both SL and HL students to pursue their **EEs in Psychology** as their preferred subject of choice.

Jyotika is the Psychology Teacher at **Modern College Mauritius** and Subject Expert at **Podar International School, Mumbai**. Her psychology resources, notes and videos are used internationally by students, teachers and schools, with millions of readers across educational platforms and psychology websites.

These notes are designed not just to help students study Psychology, but to help them write high-scoring answers confidently in the IBDP examination.

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**Reach out to Jyotika Varmani** for scheduling psychology classes, assignment consultation and related services-



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