

# E $\Psi$

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For IB HL Psychology  
First Assessment 2027



# Paper 3 Practice Pack

## Five Complete Sets

# Practice Set 1

**Psychology  
Higher level  
Paper 3**

Practice paper

1 hour 45 minutes

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**Instructions to candidates**

- Do not turn over this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Answer all the questions.
- The accompanying **psychology resource booklet** is required for this examination paper.
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is **[30 marks]**.

Answer **all** questions. Refer to source 1 below to answer question 1 and the sources in the accompanying resource booklet to answer questions 2–4.

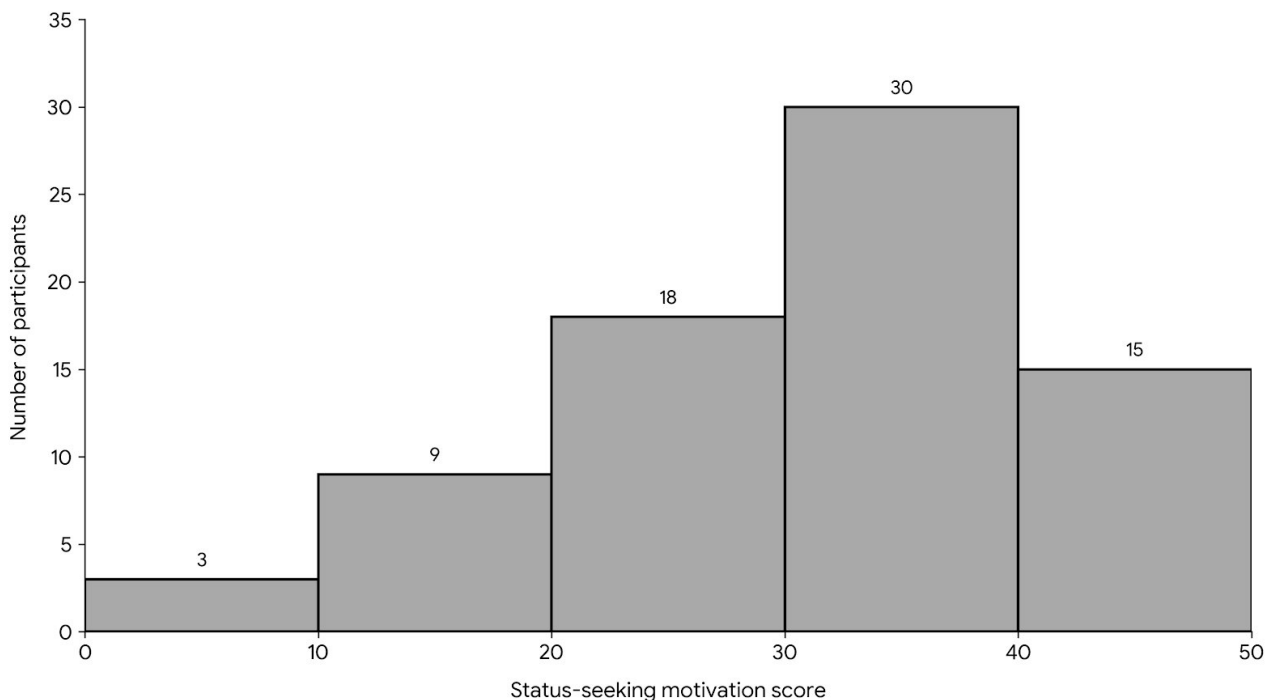
The sources in this examination have been collated to assess the claim that individuals with insecure attachment are more likely to seek social status in adulthood as a form of psychological compensation.

### Source 1

**Figure 1** shows status-seeking motivation among adults who have been classified as having insecure attachment styles.

Status-seeking motivation was measured using a questionnaire with scores ranging from 0 to 50, where higher scores indicate stronger motivation to seek social status.

Figure 1: Status-seeking motivation among adults with insecure attachment



1. Explain **one** issue that limits the interpretation of the data in **source 1**. [3]
2. Analyse the findings from **source 2** and state a conclusion linked to the claim that individuals with insecure attachment are more likely to seek social status in adulthood as a form of psychological compensation. [6]
3. Discuss how the researcher could improve the credibility of the findings in **source 3**. [6]
4. To what extent can we conclude that individuals with insecure attachment are more likely to seek social status in adulthood as a form of psychological compensation? In your answer, use your own knowledge and **at least three** of **sources 2–5**. [15]

**Psychology**  
**Higher level**  
**Paper 3 – resource booklet**

Practice paper

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**Instructions to candidates**

- Do not open this booklet until instructed to do so.
- This booklet accompanies paper 3.

Source 2 Not Available in this Limited  
Preview. Purchase the full pack to  
access it

### Source 3

A researcher carried out semi-structured interviews with 18 adults who had been identified as having insecure attachment styles using a validated attachment questionnaire.

The purpose of the interviews was to explore participants' views regarding achievement, success, and social status.

The researcher conducted thematic analysis and identified the following themes:

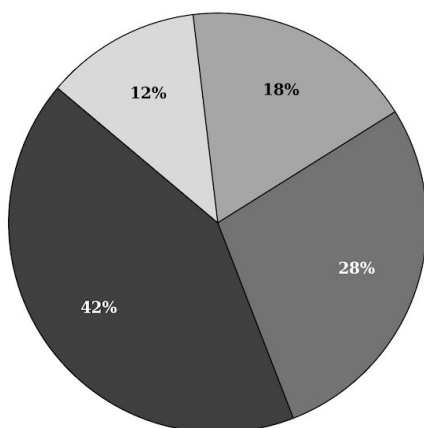
- Success was frequently described as a way of proving personal worth.
- Many participants stated that receiving admiration from others helped them feel valued.
- Several participants linked career achievement with feelings of security and acceptance.
- Some participants reported that status was relatively unimportant compared with close interpersonal relationships.

### Source 4

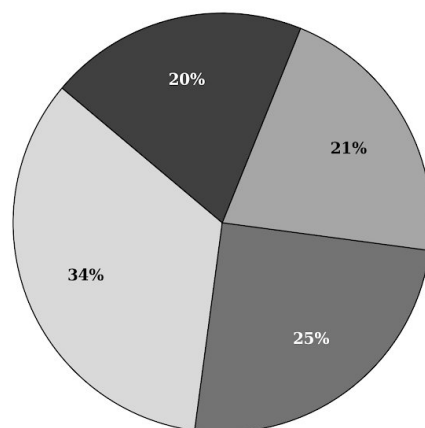
A survey was conducted with 600 adults. Participants completed an attachment questionnaire and were classified as having either a secure or insecure attachment style. Participants were then asked, "What is your main reason for pursuing career success?" Participants selected one response only.

The results are shown in **Figures 2 and 3**.

**Figure 2: Main reason for pursuing career success among adults with secure attachment**



**Figure 3: Main reason for pursuing career success among adults with insecure attachment**



■ Personal growth and fulfilment ■ Financial security ■ Supporting family members ■ Social status and prestige

Source 5 Not Available in this  
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# Answers

## 1. Explain one issue that limits the interpretation of the data in source 1. [3]

One issue that limits interpretation is the **absence of a comparison group**. The histogram only presents data for adults with insecure attachment. Although many participants scored in the higher motivation ranges, 30 participants scored 31–40 and 15 participants scored 41–50, it is unclear whether these scores are unusually high. Adults with secure attachment may show similar levels of status-seeking motivation. Therefore, the data **cannot determine whether insecure attachment is actually associated with greater status-seeking motivation**. This limits the conclusions that can be drawn from the findings.

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## 2. Analyse the findings from source 2 and state a conclusion linked to the claim that individuals with insecure attachment are more likely to seek social status in adulthood as a form of psychological compensation. [6]

The findings **support the claim** that attachment-related insecurity may increase motivation to seek social status. Participants in the **attachment-rejection group** obtained a **higher mean score** of 34.2, compared to 24.8 in the neutral-writing group. This indicates that participants who recalled experiences of rejection showed stronger status-seeking motivation overall. The **median score was also higher** (35) than the median score of the neutral group (25), suggesting that this pattern was not caused by only a few extreme scores. In addition, the attachment-rejection group achieved a **higher maximum score** of 46, compared to 40 in the control group. The minimum score was also higher (18 versus 13), showing that participants in the attachment-rejection condition generally reported stronger motivation to seek status.

The **difference between the two means is 9.4 points**, which is substantial on a scale ranging from 0 to 50. The **standard deviations were similar** (5.9 and 5.5), suggesting that the spread of scores was comparable across both groups. Therefore, the higher scores cannot simply be explained by greater variability in one condition.

Overall, participants who were reminded of rejection and emotional distance showed consistently higher levels of status-seeking motivation. It can therefore be concluded that feelings associated with insecure attachment may play a role in increasing the desire for social status and prestige in adulthood.

Answers 3 and 4 Not  
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Purchase the full Practice  
Pack for Paper 3 to access  
the complete Practice Set 1  
and 4 more complete  
Practice Sets

# 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 for 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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