AQA PSYCHOLOGY – RESEARCH METHODS PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

VISIT US ONLINE FOR THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

https://aqapsychresearchmethods.examzify.com

Copyright © 2026 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain accurate, complete, and timely information about this product from reliable sources.

SAMPLE

Table of Contents

Copyright 1

Table of Contents 2

Introduction 3

How to Use This Guide 4

Questions 5

Answers 8

Explanations 10

Next Steps 15

SAMPLE

Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

SAMPLE

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 – 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

SAMPLE

Questions

SAMPLE

1. Evaluation of Standard Deviation weakness?

A. It ignores the mean

B. It can be distorted by an extreme value

C. It requires the data to be categorical

D. It cannot be calculated for small samples

2. Which statement best defines deception in psychological research?

A. Information is withheld from participants: they misled about the purpose of the study and what will happen during it.

B. Participants are fully informed about the aims and procedures.

C. Participants are allowed to withdraw without penalty.

D. Researchers reveal all hypotheses before the study.

3. In statistics, what is the mathematical technique used to investigate an association between two variables?

A. Regression

B. Correlation

C. Causation

D. Sampling

4. Which design is best to avoid carryover effects while keeping participant numbers reasonable?

A. Independent Groups Design

B. Repeated Measures Design

C. Matched Pairs Design

D. Single-subject Design

5. Which statement best defines a double-barreled question?

A. It uses emotive language.

B. It contains two questions in one.

C. It asks for a yes/no answer.

D. It avoids bias.

SAMPLE

6. What does the range measure?

A. The sum of scores

B. The variance around the mean

C. The dispersion by subtracting min from max and adding one

D. The standard deviation

7. What best describes a quasi-experiment?

A. The IV is randomly assigned

B. The IV has not been determined by anyone; variables simply exist

C. The IV is manipulated by the researcher

D. They require ethical approval

8. How is the arithmetic mean calculated?

A. Add all values and multiply by the number of values

B. Add all values and divide by the number of values

C. Take the middle value after ordering

D. Choose the most frequent value

9. A hypothesis is defined as which?

A. A general aim.

B. Detailed, precise, testable statement about relationships.

C. Data collection method.

D. Ethical approval.

10. What is secondary data?

A. Information that has already been collected by previous researchers (desk research).

B. Information that has been obtained first hand by the researcher.

C. Data produced by experiments.

D. Data from interviews with participants.

SAMPLE

Answers

SAMPLE

1. B
2. A
3. B
4. C
5. B
6. C
7. B
8. B
9. B
10. A

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. Evaluation of Standard Deviation weakness?

A. It ignores the mean

B. It can be distorted by an extreme value

C. It requires the data to be categorical

D. It cannot be calculated for small samples

Standard deviation measures how much the data vary around the mean. Because it uses deviations from the mean and squares them, extreme values have a big influence, pulling the calculated spread higher than the rest of the data would suggest. That means an outlier can distort the standard deviation, giving a misleading impression of overall variability. This is why the statement that it can be distorted by an extreme value is the best match. Remember, it does depend on the mean and is a numerical measure, not for categoric data, and it can be calculated for small samples even though the estimate may be less stable.

2. Which statement best defines deception in psychological research?

A. Information is withheld from participants: they misled about the purpose of the study and what will happen during it.

B. Participants are fully informed about the aims and procedures.

C. Participants are allowed to withdraw without penalty.

D. Researchers reveal all hypotheses before the study.

Deception in research means not telling participants the full picture and sometimes giving them misleading information about the study's aims or what will happen to them. The statement that information is withheld and that participants are misled about the purpose and what will happen best captures this idea, because it directly describes both withholding details and presenting false or incomplete information about the study. Being fully informed about aims and procedures isn't deception, so that option isn't correct. Allowing participants to withdraw is an ethical right, not a description of deception, and revealing all hypotheses beforehand is about transparency and reducing bias, not deceiving participants. In practice, deception is used only when necessary and followed by thorough debriefing.

3. In statistics, what is the mathematical technique used to investigate an association between two variables?

A. Regression

B. Correlation

C. Causation

D. Sampling

Correlation quantifies whether and how two quantitative variables vary together. It captures both direction and strength: if the variables tend to rise together, the association is positive; if one tends to fall as the other rises, it's negative. The correlation coefficient ranges from -1 to 1, where values near 1 or -1 indicate a strong linear relationship and values near 0 suggest little or no linear association. For linear, continuous data, Pearson correlation is the standard measure; for data that aren't normally distributed or are ordinal, Spearman's rho (or Kendall's tau) is appropriate. This approach focuses on the presence and strength of association, not causation. Regression, while related, is about predicting one variable from another and implies a directional relationship, which goes beyond simply establishing an association. Sampling relates to how data are collected, not specifically to measuring association.

SAMPLE

4. Which design is best to avoid carryover effects while keeping participant numbers reasonable?

A. Independent Groups Design

B. Repeated Measures Design

C. Matched Pairs Design

D. Single-subject Design

Carryover effects happen when taking part in one condition influences performance in another condition, which is a risk when the same participants are exposed to multiple conditions. The design that best avoids this while keeping the number of participants manageable is matched pairs. In a matched-pairs setup, participants are paired on relevant characteristics (like baseline ability or other factors that could affect the outcome), and then within each pair, one participant is randomly assigned to each condition. This means no participant experiences more than one condition, so there's no carryover from one condition to the next. At the same time, matching reduces variability due to individual differences, which can give you more statistical power without needing a large increase in participants. By contrast, an independent groups design also avoids carryover but typically requires more participants to achieve the same power, while a repeated-measures design, though efficient, risks carryover unless complex counterbalancing is used.

5. Which statement best defines a double-barreled question?

A. It uses emotive language.

B. It contains two questions in one.

C. It asks for a yes/no answer.

D. It avoids bias.

A double-barreled question combines two or more ideas into a single item, so a respondent must give one answer that covers more than one issue. This makes it unclear which part the answer refers to and lowers reliability, because you can't tell whether the respondent agrees with one part, the other part, or both. For example, "Do you think the new policy is beneficial and affordable?" asks about two separate things at once, which can confuse the response and muddy the data. That's why this option—containing two questions in one—is the best definition. Emotive language describes framing that aims to influence feelings, not the structure of the question. A yes/no request is just a response format, not the issue of combining questions. Avoiding bias would be about careful wording to prevent skew, whereas double-barreling inherently mixes two issues and can introduce bias by masking which part the respondent supports.

6. What does the range measure?

A. The sum of scores

B. The variance around the mean

C. The dispersion by subtracting min from max and adding one

D. The standard deviation

The range measures how spread out the data are by using the extremes. It looks at the gap between the smallest and largest values. You find this by subtracting the minimum from the maximum, which gives the spread. In some contexts, it's described as counting how many different values lie between the minimum and maximum, inclusive, which is that difference plus one. For example, if the data go from 3 to 9, the spread is 9 − 3 = 6, and the inclusive count of possible values is 9 − 3 + 1 = 7 (the values 3 through 9).

SAMPLE

7. What best describes a quasi-experiment?

A. The IV is randomly assigned

B. The IV has not been determined by anyone; variables simply exist

C. The IV is manipulated by the researcher

D. They require ethical approval

The key idea is that quasi-experiments study cause-and-effect without random assignment of participants to groups. In these designs, the independent variable isn't allocated by the researcher in a random way, often because it's a pre-existing or naturally occurring condition rather than something the researcher can assign. That's why the description that the independent variable has not been determined by anyone and the variables simply exist fits best: it captures the lack of random assignment or full experimental control over how groups are formed. If the IV were randomly assigned, you'd be looking at a true experiment. The requirement for ethical approval is separate and not what defines a quasi-experiment, and an IV that is clearly manipulated by the researcher with randomization missing is still characterized by the lack of random assignment rather than by the existence of the variable itself.

8. How is the arithmetic mean calculated?

A. Add all values and multiply by the number of values

B. Add all values and divide by the number of values

C. Take the middle value after ordering

D. Choose the most frequent value

Calculating the arithmetic mean means finding the average by adding up all the values and then dividing by how many values there are. This single number represents the overall level of the data. For example, with values 2, 4, and 6, you get (2 + 4 + 6) = 12, and there are 3 values, so the mean is 12 ÷ 3 = 4. This differs from multiplying the sum by the number of values, which would be incorrect, and it's also different from the middle value after ordering (the median) or the most frequent value (the mode), which are other ways to describe a data set.

9. A hypothesis is defined as which?

A. A general aim.

B. Detailed, precise, testable statement about relationships.

C. Data collection method.

D. Ethical approval.

A hypothesis is a precise, testable statement about the relationship between variables. It comes from theory and lets you predict what you expect to observe in your data, so you can test that prediction with your study design. This is why it's distinct from a general aim, which is broad and vague, and from data collection methods or ethical approval, which describe how you carry out the study rather than what you expect to find. A good hypothesis specifies the variables, the expected direction of the relationship (if applicable), and is testable with measurable data, so analysis can confirm or refute it. For example, you might predict that more sleep leads to better recall, a statement that can be tested by measuring sleep and memory performance.

SAMPLE

10. What is secondary data?

A. Information that has already been collected by previous researchers (desk research).

B. Information that has been obtained first hand by the researcher.

C. Data produced by experiments.

D. Data from interviews with participants.

Secondary data is information that has already been collected by someone else for a purpose other than your current study, typically found through desk-based research. This includes things like census data, government statistics, or results from prior studies. The crucial point is you did not gather this data yourself; it already exists. This contrasts with primary data, which you collect firsthand through methods like experiments, surveys, or interviews. So the best choice is the one describing information that has already been collected by previous researchers.

SAMPLE

Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

https://aqapsychresearchmethods.examzify.com

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

SAMPLE