

# QCAA Year 12 Psychology Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

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# 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.

# 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!**

## Questions

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- 1. What area of the brain connects Broca's area and Wernicke's area?**
  - A. Geschwind's territory**
  - B. Hippocampus**
  - C. Superior temporal gyrus**
  - D. Angular gyrus**
  
- 2. What concept refers to the phenomenon where individuals overemphasize dispositional factors over situational factors when judging others' behavior?**
  - A. Self-serving bias**
  - B. Implicit attitude**
  - C. Fundamental attribution error**
  - D. Social comparison**
  
- 3. What is measured to evaluate the effect of the independent variable in psychological research?**
  - A. Control variable**
  - B. Independent variable**
  - C. Dependent variable**
  - D. Extraneous variable**
  
- 4. According to Duck's model, which phase occurs first during a breakup?**
  - A. Grave-dressing**
  - B. Intrapsychic**
  - C. Social**
  - D. Resurrection**
  
- 5. Which part of the brain is known for containing the primary visual cortex?**
  - A. Frontal lobe**
  - B. Occipital lobe**
  - C. Temporal lobe**
  - D. Parietal lobe**

- 6. Which term describes the ability to accurately judge three-dimensional space and distance?**
- A. Gestalt principles of visual perception**
  - B. Depth perception**
  - C. Interposition**
  - D. Glaucoma**
- 7. What happens during the modeling process in social learning?**
- A. Learning through rewards and punishment**
  - B. Adapting to environmental changes**
  - C. Observational imitation of another individual's behavior**
  - D. Conditioning through stimuli**
- 8. What type of neurotransmitter is glutamate classified as?**
- A. Inhibitory**
  - B. Excitatory**
  - C. Modulatory**
  - D. Repressive**
- 9. Which term refers to a procedure where every member of the population has an equal chance of being selected?**
- A. Systematic sampling**
  - B. Volunteer sampling**
  - C. Random sampling**
  - D. Cluster sampling**
- 10. What refers to the likelihood that bystanders will provide help based on how others react?**
- A. Social influence**
  - B. Groupthink**
  - C. Hostile perception bias**
  - D. Hostile attribution bias**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. What area of the brain connects Broca's area and Wernicke's area?**

- A. Geschwind's territory**
- B. Hippocampus**
- C. Superior temporal gyrus**
- D. Angular gyrus**

The correct choice identifies Geschwind's territory, which is crucial for understanding language processing in the brain. This area functions as a connection between Broca's area, responsible for language production, and Wernicke's area, which is involved in language comprehension. Geschwind's territory plays a significant role in facilitating the integrated processing of language, allowing for effective communication. This integration is essential for understanding and responding to language, highlighting the interdependence of these areas in the brain's language network. In contrast, the hippocampus is primarily associated with memory formation rather than language processing. The superior temporal gyrus is a region where Wernicke's area is located but does not serve as a connecting pathway. The angular gyrus also has roles in language but is not specifically the area that connects Broca's and Wernicke's areas. Thus, understanding the role of Geschwind's territory clarifies how different parts of the brain work together in the domain of language.

**2. What concept refers to the phenomenon where individuals overemphasize dispositional factors over situational factors when judging others' behavior?**

- A. Self-serving bias**
- B. Implicit attitude**
- C. Fundamental attribution error**
- D. Social comparison**

The concept that refers to the tendency for individuals to prioritize dispositional factors, such as personality traits or character, over situational factors, such as environmental influences or circumstances, when interpreting the behavior of others is known as the fundamental attribution error. This cognitive bias leads people to make quick judgments that neglect the broader context affecting someone's actions. For instance, if someone fails to meet a deadline, observers might attribute this failure solely to laziness or poor time management skills, overlooking potential situational influences like unforeseen challenges or a heavy workload. Recognizing this bias is crucial in psychology, as it emphasizes the importance of understanding the complex interplay between individual characteristics and situational contexts when evaluating behavior.

**3. What is measured to evaluate the effect of the independent variable in psychological research?**

- A. Control variable**
- B. Independent variable**
- C. Dependent variable**
- D. Extraneous variable**

In psychological research, the dependent variable is measured to evaluate the effect of the independent variable. The independent variable is the factor that is manipulated or varied by the researcher to observe how it impacts the dependent variable, which is the outcome or response being measured. For example, if a researcher is studying the effect of sleep on cognitive performance, sleep would be the independent variable, while cognitive performance would be the dependent variable that is assessed. By measuring changes in the dependent variable, researchers can determine whether and how the independent variable has influenced the outcome. This relationship is foundational to experimental design, as it helps establish causality by demonstrating that changes in the independent variable lead to measurable effects in the dependent variable. Understanding this distinction is crucial for interpreting research findings accurately.

**4. According to Duck's model, which phase occurs first during a breakup?**

- A. Grave-dressing**
- B. Intrapsychic**
- C. Social**
- D. Resurrection**

In Duck's model of relationship breakdown, the first phase that occurs during a breakup is the intrapsychic phase. This phase is characterized by one partner's internal contemplation about the relationship. During this time, an individual begins to reflect on their unmet needs and dissatisfaction within the relationship, often considering the advantages and disadvantages of staying versus leaving. This introspective process is crucial, as it sets the stage for the subsequent phases of the breakup, where thoughts and feelings may eventually be communicated to the other partner or others outside the relationship. The intrapsychic phase is significant because it marks the initial acknowledgment of problems and dissatisfaction before any actions are taken towards ending the relationship. It's a personal, often solitary phase, where emotions are processed internally and can influence how the person subsequently approaches the social dynamics of their relationship.

**5. Which part of the brain is known for containing the primary visual cortex?**

- A. Frontal lobe
- B. Occipital lobe**
- C. Temporal lobe
- D. Parietal lobe

The primary visual cortex is located in the occipital lobe, which is the part of the brain primarily responsible for processing visual information. This region is situated at the back of the brain and is crucial for interpreting signals received from the eyes, such as color, light, and movement. The occipital lobe integrates different aspects of visual perception and plays a key role in how we understand our visual environment.

Understanding this structure's function highlights its importance in our overall perception and cognitive processes related to sight. The other lobes, while they have important functions—for example, the frontal lobe is involved in decision-making and problem-solving, the temporal lobe plays a key role in auditory processing and memory, and the parietal lobe is involved in spatial awareness and sensory integration—do not contain the primary visual cortex. This specificity of function in the occipital lobe underscores its essential role in visual processing.

**6. Which term describes the ability to accurately judge three-dimensional space and distance?**

- A. Gestalt principles of visual perception
- B. Depth perception**
- C. Interposition
- D. Glaucoma

The ability to accurately judge three-dimensional space and distance is known as depth perception. This is a crucial aspect of visual processing that allows individuals to perceive how far away objects are from them and to navigate their environment effectively. Depth perception combines various visual cues from both eyes, such as stereopsis (the slightly different views from each eye) and monocular cues (such as relative size, texture gradient, and motion parallax). In contrast, the other terms listed refer to different concepts. Gestalt principles of visual perception pertain to how we organize visual elements into groups or unified wholes. Interposition is a specific visual cue related to depth perception, where an object that is obstructing another is perceived as being closer. Glaucoma, on the other hand, is a medical condition related to eye health that can affect vision but does not directly relate to the ability to judge depth. Therefore, depth perception is the most accurate term for the ability to assess three-dimensional space and distance.

- 7. What happens during the modeling process in social learning?**
- A. Learning through rewards and punishment**
  - B. Adapting to environmental changes**
  - C. Observational imitation of another individual's behavior**
  - D. Conditioning through stimuli**

During the modeling process in social learning, observational imitation of another individual's behavior is a key component. This concept is rooted in Albert Bandura's social learning theory, which emphasizes that individuals can learn new behaviors by observing others, rather than through direct experience or reinforcement. When a person observes a model performing a specific action, they take note of the behavior and the consequences that follow. If the behavior appears to yield positive results or rewards for the model, the observer is more likely to imitate that behavior in similar circumstances. This process highlights the importance of social interaction and the environment in shaping behavior, as individuals are influenced by the actions and outcomes they witness in others. The other choices refer to different learning processes: learning through rewards and punishment pertains to operant conditioning; adapting to environmental changes relates to behavioral modifications due to external factors; and conditioning through stimuli refers to classical conditioning. All of these are distinct from the modeling process, which directly involves observational learning.

- 8. What type of neurotransmitter is glutamate classified as?**
- A. Inhibitory**
  - B. Excitatory**
  - C. Modulatory**
  - D. Repressive**

Glutamate is classified as an excitatory neurotransmitter, which means it plays a crucial role in stimulating neural activity. When glutamate binds to its receptors on nearby neurons, it increases the likelihood of those neurons firing an action potential, thereby promoting the transmission of signals throughout the brain and spinal cord. This excitatory function is essential for various cognitive processes, including learning and memory. In contrast to excitatory neurotransmitters, inhibitory neurotransmitters help reduce neuronal activity, which has a calming effect on the brain's activity. Glutamate's role as an excitatory neurotransmitter is fundamental in processes such as synaptic plasticity, which is important for memory formation. Understanding the classification of glutamate as excitatory is essential, as it helps clarify its function in the nervous system and the balance between excitation and inhibition that is vital for normal brain function.

**9. Which term refers to a procedure where every member of the population has an equal chance of being selected?**

- A. Systematic sampling**
- B. Volunteer sampling**
- C. Random sampling**
- D. Cluster sampling**

Random sampling is the procedure that ensures every member of the population has an equal chance of being selected. This method is fundamental in research because it minimizes selection bias and allows the findings to be more generalizable to the larger population. By using random sampling, researchers can obtain a representative sample, which enhances the validity of their conclusions about the population being studied. In contrast, systematic sampling involves selecting individuals based on a predetermined system or pattern, which does not guarantee equal chances for all participants. Volunteer sampling relies on individuals self-selecting to participate, which can lead to a non-representative sample as it may attract a certain type of person. Cluster sampling involves dividing the population into groups (or clusters) and then randomly selecting entire clusters, which does not ensure that every individual has an equal chance of being chosen, as it might exclude individuals from non-selected clusters.

**10. What refers to the likelihood that bystanders will provide help based on how others react?**

- A. Social influence**
- B. Groupthink**
- C. Hostile perception bias**
- D. Hostile attribution bias**

The concept that refers to the likelihood that bystanders will provide help based on how others react is known as social influence. In situations where an emergency or need for assistance arises, individuals often look to the behavior of those around them to determine how to act. If others seem indifferent or do not intervene, bystanders may be less likely to offer help themselves, as they interpret the lack of action as a signal that intervention is unnecessary. This phenomenon can be explained through the concept of the 'bystander effect,' a social psychological theory that suggests that people are less likely to help a victim when other people are present, largely due to social cues and the diffusion of responsibility among the group. In contrast, groupthink refers to a mode of thinking that people engage in when they are deeply involved in a cohesive in-group, often leading to poor decision-making due to a desire for harmony or conformity. Hostile perception bias involves perceiving others' ambiguous actions as aggressive, while hostile attribution bias is the tendency to interpret others' ambiguous behaviors as having hostile intent. These concepts do not specifically address the influence of observing others' reactions on an individual's likelihood to help in social situations.

## 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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

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

**<https://qcaayear12psych.examzify.com>**

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

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