16 mark questions: AO1- Knowledge

Unlike the 8 mark questions, it is more likely that the question will ask explicitly for evaluations. As before, when eradicating the actual topics from these questions, this is how they may read:

“Outline and evaluate research (theories and/or studies) into the effects of A on B”

However, when addressing a theory, for instance, biological approaches for schizophrenia, they may use the term “discuss”- as with 8 mark questions. Similarly, this essentially means “To what extent is this, the case”. For example: “To what extent can biological approaches explain schizophrenia? What are the strengths and weakness of the biological approach here? Is there anything the biological approach does not explain?”

16 mark questions that address AO2, may look like this:

“Outline and evaluate A and B as definitions for C. Refer to the paragraph in your answer”

As you can see here, by providing a paragraph case study for you to incorporate into your answer, this addresses AO2 also.

AO1: Example 5 (6/16 marks)

“Outline and evaluate research (theories and/or studies) into the effects of misleading information on eyewitness testimony.” (16 marks)

**Loftus and Palmer, (1974) investigated how misleading information can impact eyewitness testimony, focussing in particular on how the wording of questions to eyewitness, could influence their recollections of events.** After watching a video, participants were asked at what speed a vehicle was travelling when it collided. However, the verb “contacted” was manipulated for each experimental group, in order to investigate how the verb used could impact the participants’ estimations of the speed of the car. ‘Smashed’ had the highest speed estimation, averaging at 40.9 mph, and ‘contacted’ had the lowest speed estimation, averaging at 31.8mph. This experiment elegantly demonstrated how misleading information, such as the verb used in the question, can alter eyewitness testimony, shown through speed estimations.

This answer would then continue for 2-3 subsequent paragraphs in this style.

The answer addresses the AO1 criteria by providing knowledge of research into misleading information and eye witness testimony. It links the IV (verb) and the DV (speed estimation) with the topics misleading information and eyewitness testimony to ensure the answer remains focussed explicitly on what the question is asking.

This question is probably awarded more marks than the 8 mark questions as it is asking for specific research on topic areas; Who did the study? When was the study? What was the aim of the study? What did they find? As opposed to the 8 mark questions that simply ask for an explanation of the topic.

This is a research- focussed question.