

1. “Standard Form.” 7-9 items, each applied to a central scenario or instance. 1 point per item.
2. “Old Skool” (1992-97, occasionally since). Lots of “Explain _____ from the following perspectives: psychoanalytic, behavioral, etc.” Various points, based on the number of perspectives. Generally, students would earn two points per perspective, based on their understanding of the issue and the way in which they relate it to each perspective.
3. “Super-Focused.” This is the opposite of the broad, general Standard Form. A typical example?
 - Case Study
 - Correlation
 - Experiment
 - A. Discuss an advantage of each method.
 - B. Discuss a disadvantage of each method.
 - C. Relate each method to a given scenario....for a total of nine points.

4. “Positional.” This type of question requires you to take three (or so) concepts, look at different points of view for each one, and then select a point of view to support. For example, a concept like “Children’s acquisition of language (2005)” might be worth three points: one for describing, say, Chomsky’s ideas (nature), one for discussing Skinner’s ideas (nurture), and another for taking a position supporting one or the other.
5. “Research Identification.” This one should be easy. They give you a sample study, ask you which method of research it is, and then ask you to identify things like hypotheses, IVs, DVs, etc... then, they expect you to know strengths and weaknesses for that method of research. Totals tend to be 7-8 points.
6. “Definitional.” This is similar to your midterm question: you define some concepts (normally five), then give a specific example of how that concept relates to a simple scenario. Example? “Conformity” is the concept, “continuing a smoking habit” is the scenario. Worth two points per concept (usually ten).

7. “Modified Standard Form.” This is similar to the normal essay, but with an important twist. Instead of using a wide-open scenario (Genevieve’s drive home, TK421’s crash-landing), they’ll give you a specific psych term to which you’d need to relate (usually) five concepts. Example (2002)?

Opposing tendencies or processes (the specific psych term)

- Appetite
- Autonomic nervous system
- Color vision
- Drug use
- Nerve firing

These are generally worth two points per concept (for example, under the autonomic nervous system, a point for SNS and a point for PNS). These can be killers, but the bright side is that they’re seldom looking for very much detail.