

**Psychology**  
**Higher level**  
**Paper 3**

Monday 14 May 2018 (morning)

1 hour

---

**Instructions to candidates**

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Read the passage carefully and then answer all the questions.
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is **[30 marks]**.

The stimulus material below is based on a research article that addresses participants' motivation to participate in "extreme sports".

Extreme sports are physical activities that are dangerous and may result in serious injury or even death. Researchers are interested in why people would be willing to participate in activities that are dangerous, although at this stage there is not yet much qualitative research in this area.

- 5 The aim of this qualitative study was to explore motivations for taking part in sky diving or mountaineering (mountain climbing).

10 Five males and three females who practise sky diving or mountaineering were recruited for the study. An ethics committee approved the research and all participants signed informed consent before the study. They were also asked to choose another name, which would be used to refer to them in the final report.

A semi-structured interview was carried out with each participant. Each interview lasted an hour and took place in locations that each participant chose. The interviews were audio-recorded and then transcribed verbatim before conducting an inductive content analysis (thematic analysis).

- 15 The inductive content analysis of the transcripts showed the following themes related to motivation:

- 20
- the challenge of pushing themselves beyond their existing mental and physical limits
  - striving for achievement and mastery of their sport
  - the feeling of getting better at their sport worked as a reward for the participants
  - the feeling of "being in the present" and clearing all other thoughts from their mind
  - experiencing pleasurable feelings such as excitement or "adrenaline rush"
  - accepting suffering and physical injury as part of the experience of doing extreme sports.

25 The researchers concluded that the participants' own explanations suggest that pushing one's limits and striving for achievement are major motivational factors that outweigh the possible risks involved in taking part in extreme sports.

Carla Willig, A phenomenological investigation of the experience of taking part in 'extreme sports' in *Journal of Health Psychology*, vol 13(5), pp. 698-699, copyright © 2008 by SAGE Publications. Reprinted by Permission of SAGE Publications, Ltd.

Answer **all** of the following three questions, referring to the stimulus material in your answers. Marks will be awarded for demonstration of knowledge and understanding of **qualitative** research methodology.

1. Explain **two or more** ethical considerations relevant to this study. [10]
  
  2. Discuss the use of semi-structured interview in this study. [10]
  
  3. Describe how researchers in this study could use inductive content analysis (thematic analysis) on the interview transcripts. [10]
-