

# How to Write a LAQ (ERQ) for Psychology

## Introduction

Rephrase the question

Present broader context (establish importance/significance)

Road map answer (state how you will answer question)

## Main Body

Answer systematically. For multi-part answers (e.g., "two or more"), focus on one part to start.

Answer the question directly & stay focused. Identify key facts and provide definitions and/or explanations.

You may to break down a complex concept or topic into it's simpler parts - don't forget to define additional terms as you do.

Provide evidence to support your answer. Mention a minimum of 3 theories or studies in the answer unless the question specifically calls for less.

For multi-part answers (e.g., two hormones), 3 studies per part are best.

For each concept, theory, or study, try to SEAA (synthesis, evaluation, application, or analysis). If you can provide evidence of two for a particular piece of point, do so but don't go overboard trying to include each for every single point.

Pay attention to the command term!  
Focus your answer so it clearly addresses the term.

## Conclusion

Conclusion should be short and clear.

Summarize your main point(s) in just a couple sentences and then provide a concluding sentence.

This section requires very little thought or time.

## S.E.A.A. (Criterion B)

- **Synthesis** means that you combine two concepts or theories or approaches to create a more comprehensive or clearer explanation.
  - You're building up individual parts - for example showing the diathesis-stress model combines biological, cognitive, and social factors to explain a disorder.
  - Showing how a principle influences the use of a method or the development of a theory is another way to do this.
- **Evaluation** means you offer point out some of the strengths and/or limitations of a particular method, study, or theory.
  - Sometimes you can do this by providing another piece of evidence that either supports or contradicts a previous study or theory.
- **Application** means you demonstrate a practical use for a concept, theory, or research finding.
  - Some examples are showing how a particular NT or hormone has been used to develop a drug to treat a disorder, how a particular theory of memory has been used to develop teaching methods, or how a social psych theory has been used to create compliance.
- **Analysis** means you break down a theory or model into its essential elements.
  - This often comes quite naturally if you break down a concept into his constituent parts or elements.
  - Other ways to do this is to link the concept/topic to a principle or theory upon which it is based.