

General Certificate of Education
January 2003
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



PSYCHOLOGY (SPECIFICATION A)
Unit 2 Physiological Psychology and Individual Differences

PYA2

Friday 10 January 2003 Morning Session

In addition to this paper you will require:
an 8-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour

Instructions

- Σ Use blue or black ink or ball-point pen.
- Σ Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is PYA2.
- Σ In Section A answer **one** question. You should attempt **all** parts of the question you choose.
- Σ In Section B answer **one** question. You should attempt **all** parts of the question you choose.
- Σ Do all rough work in the answer book. Cross through any work you do not want marked.

Information

- Σ The maximum mark for this paper is 62.
- Σ Mark allocations are shown in brackets.
- Σ In addition to the mark allocations indicated within the paper, you will be awarded up to 2 marks for your ability to organise and present information, ideas, descriptions and arguments clearly and logically. Account will be taken of your use of grammar, punctuation and spelling and the legibility of your handwriting.

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SECTION A – PHYSIOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY

Answer **one** question from this Section.

You should attempt **all** parts of the question you choose.

1**Total for this question: 30 marks**

- (a) (i) Outline **one** physiological approach (e.g. drugs, biofeedback) to stress management. *(3 marks)*
- (ii) Describe **one** strength of the approach you have outlined in (i). *(3 marks)*
- (b) Describe the findings and conclusions of **one** study of the effects of stress on the immune system. *(6 marks)*
- (c) “A major problem with investigating workplace stress is that so many factors might be involved.”
- Outline and evaluate research (theories **and/or** studies) into the workplace as a source of stress. *(18 marks)*

2**Total for this question: 30 marks**

- (a) Describe **two** ways in which personality may modify the effects of stressors. *(3 marks + 3 marks)*
- (b) Outline findings of research into life changes as a source of stress. *(6 marks)*
- (c) Consider **two** psychological methods of stress management (e.g. stress-inoculation training, increasing hardiness) in terms of their strengths and weaknesses. *(18 marks)*

SECTION B – INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

Answer **one** question from this Section.

You should attempt **all** parts of the question you choose.

3**Total for this question: 30 marks**

- (a) Outline **two** limitations of the definition of abnormality as “deviation from ideal mental health”. *(3 marks + 3 marks)*
- (b) Outline **one** assumption made by the biological (medical) model in relation to the treatment of abnormality. *(6 marks)*
- (c) Briefly outline **two or more** explanations of anorexia nervosa and evaluate these explanations using research evidence (theories **and/or** studies). *(18 marks)*

4**Total for this question: 30 marks**

- (a) Outline **two** assumptions of the psychodynamic model in relation to the causes of abnormality. *(3 marks + 3 marks)*
- (b) Describe the findings and conclusions of **one** study of bulimia nervosa. *(6 marks)*
- (c) “A constant problem in studying abnormal behaviour is the difficulty of finding a reliable definition of abnormality.”

Briefly outline and evaluate **two or more** attempts to define abnormality. *(18 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS