

General Certificate of Education
June 2003
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



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

PYA2

Monday 19 May 2003 1.30 pm to 2.30 pm

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

Time allowed: 1 hour

Instructions

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

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 62.
- Mark allocations are shown in brackets.
- 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.

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** psychological method of stress management (e.g. increasing hardiness, stress inoculation). *(3 marks)*
- (ii) Outline **one** weakness of the method you have outlined in (i). *(3 marks)*
- (b) Describe the procedures and findings of **one** study of the relationship between stress and cardiovascular disorders. *(6 marks)*
- (c) “The problem with studying life changes is that they have different effects on different people.”

Outline and evaluate research (theories **and/or** studies) into life changes (e.g. Holmes and Rahe) as a source of stress. *(18 marks)*

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

- (a) Describe Selye’s General Adaptation Syndrome. *(6 marks)*
- (b) Outline the role of culture in modifying the effects of stressors. *(6 marks)*
- (c) Consider **two** physiological methods of stress management (e.g. drugs, biofeedback) 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) (i) Outline the “deviation from social norms” definition of abnormality. (3 marks)
- (ii) Outline **one** limitation of the “deviation from social norms” definition of abnormality. (3 marks)
- (b) Describe the findings and conclusions of **one** study of anorexia nervosa. (6 marks)
- (c) “Despite its weaknesses, the psychodynamic model is still useful in understanding and treating psychological disorders.”

Outline key features of the psychodynamic model of abnormality and consider its strengths **and/or** limitations. (18 marks)

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

- (a) (i) Outline **one** assumption of the behavioural model in relation to the causes of abnormality. (3 marks)
- (ii) Outline **one** assumption of the cognitive model in relation to the causes of abnormality. (3 marks)
- (b) Explain how **two** definitions of abnormality are limited by cultural relativism. (3 marks + 3 marks)
- (c) To what extent does research evidence (theories **and/or** studies) support the view that anorexia nervosa **and/or** bulimia nervosa are caused by biological factors? (18 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS