

General Certificate of Education  
January 2003  
Advanced Level Examination



**PSYCHOLOGY (SPECIFICATION A) PYA5**  
**Unit 5 Individual Differences; Perspectives: Issues and Debates; Approaches**

Monday 27 January 2003 Afternoon Session

**In addition to this paper you will require:**  
a 16-page answer book.

Time allowed: 2 hours

**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 PYA5.
- Σ In Section A answer **one** question.
- Σ In Section B answer **one** question.
- Σ In Section C 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 94.
- Σ Mark allocations are shown in brackets.
- Σ In addition to the mark allocations indicated within the paper, you will be awarded up to 4 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 – INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES**

Answer **one** question from this Section.

In answer to the question you will be assessed on your ability to relate the given content to other areas of Psychology.

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- 1 Discuss arguments **for** the existence of culture-bound syndromes. *(30 marks)*
- 2 (a) Outline **two** clinical characteristics of schizophrenia. *(5 marks)*  
(b) Describe and evaluate **two or more** explanations of schizophrenia. *(25 marks)*
- 3 “Although biological therapies are often effective in the treatment of mental disorders, they might be criticised as being ethically dubious and treating only the body rather than the person.”  
Discuss issues relating to the use of biological (somatic) therapies, such as those raised in this quotation. *(30 marks)*
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**SECTION B – PERSPECTIVES: ISSUES AND DEBATES**

Answer **one** question from this Section.

In answer to the question you will be assessed on your ability to relate the given content to other areas of Psychology.

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- 4 “Psychologists have a real dilemma in carrying out work in socially sensitive areas. Such work raises difficult ethical issues and yet it may provide insights into some of society’s most pressing problems.”  
Discuss issues relating to the ethics of socially sensitive research, such as those raised in this quotation. *(30 marks)*
- 5 Describe and evaluate the case **for** the use of non-human animals in psychological research. *(30 marks)*
- 6 Discuss the free will and determinism debate with reference to **two or more** psychological theories **and/or** studies. *(30 marks)*
- 7 (a) Explain what is meant by the nature-nurture debate. *(5 marks)*  
(b) Discuss **two or more** examples of the nature-nurture debate in psychology. *(25 marks)*

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**SECTION C – PERSPECTIVES: APPROACHES**

Answer **one** question from this Section.

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

In answer to the question you will be assessed on your ability to relate the given content to other areas of Psychology.

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- 8** Steve lives for football. He supports one of the big, top league teams and also his local team and feels excitement and pride when they win. He watches almost every match shown live on television, much to the annoyance of his girlfriend, who hates football. Steve collects all sorts of memorabilia connected with his two clubs and always wears one of the replica kits on Saturdays and Sundays. Steve says that he does love his girlfriend but has a different type of passion for football.
- (a) Describe how **two** approaches might try to explain Steve's passion for football. *(6 marks + 6 marks)*
  - (b) Assess **one** of these explanations of Steve's passion for football in terms of its strengths and limitations. *(6 marks)*
  - (c) How would **one** of these approaches investigate Steve's passion for football? *(6 marks)*
  - (d) Evaluate the use of this method of investigating Steve's passion for football. *(6 marks)*
- 9** Tina is an extremely shy and nervous young woman. She hates the thought of meeting new people and the idea of having to speak to others in her meetings at work fills her with a sense of dread. Her shyness means that she tends to avoid going out to places where she is likely to meet lots of other people. As a result she stays in most of the time.
- (a) Describe how **two** approaches might try to explain Tina's shyness. *(6 marks + 6 marks)*
  - (b) Assess **one** of these explanations of Tina's shyness in terms of its strengths and limitations. *(6 marks)*
  - (c) How would **one** of these approaches investigate Tina's shyness? *(6 marks)*
  - (d) Evaluate the use of this method of investigating Tina's shyness. *(6 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**