

General Certificate of Education  
January 2006  
Advanced Level Examination



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

Wednesday 25 January 2006 9.00 am to 11.00 am

**For this paper you must have:**

A 16-page answer book

Time allowed: 2 hours

**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 PYA5.
- In Section A answer **one** question.
- In Section B answer **one** question.
- In Section C answer **one** question. You should attempt **all** parts of the question you choose. In your answer to the question, you should clearly identify which approach you have used in each part of the question.
- 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 94.
- 4 of these marks will be awarded for the Quality of Written Communication.
- The marks for the questions are shown in brackets.
- You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers. All questions should be answered in continuous prose. Quality of Written Communication will be assessed in all answers.

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**SECTION A – INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES**

Answer **one** question from this section.

In your 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 ‘The same psychological disorders are found in all cultures. These disorders have the same causes and the same symptoms, wherever they occur. Culture has no influence on mental disorder, so there can be no such things as culture-bound syndromes.’

Discuss culture-bound syndromes with reference to issues such as those raised in the quotation above. *(30 marks)*

- 2 (a) Outline clinical characteristics of depression. *(5 marks)*  
(b) Discuss **one** biological and **one** psychological explanation of depression. *(25 marks)*

- 3 ‘Psychological treatments for mental disorders should be appropriate and effective.’

With reference to the quotation above, discuss the treatment of mental disorders by **either** psychodynamic **or** cognitive-behavioural therapies. *(30 marks)*

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**SECTION B – PERSPECTIVES: ISSUES AND DEBATES**

Answer **one** question from this section.

In your 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 Discuss gender bias in psychological theories **and/or** studies (eg androcentrism and alpha-beta bias). *(30 marks)*

- 5 Discuss **two or more** ethical issues relating to psychological investigations involving human participants. *(30 marks)*

- 6 (a) Outline what is meant by the terms free will and determinism. *(5 marks)*

(b) Discuss free will and determinism in relation to **two or more** psychological theories. *(25 marks)*

- 7 Discuss the claim that psychology is a science. *(30 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 your answer to the question, you will be assessed on your ability to relate the given content to other areas of Psychology.

In your answer to the question, you should clearly identify which approach you have used in each part of the question.

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- 8** Television soap operas such as ‘EastEnders’, ‘Hollyoaks’ and ‘Coronation Street’ are long-running programmes about the everyday lives and conflicts of fictional characters and have been popular for a long time. Many people watch them on a regular basis and record episodes on video if they have to miss one for any reason.
- (a) Describe how the popularity of television soap operas might be explained by **two** different approaches. *(6 marks + 6 marks)*
  - (b) Assess **one** of these explanations of the popularity of television soap operas in terms of its strengths **and** limitations. *(6 marks)*
  - (c) How might the popularity of television soap operas be investigated by **one** of these approaches? *(6 marks)*
  - (d) Evaluate the use of this method of investigating the popularity of television soap operas. *(6 marks)*
- 9** Cosmetic surgery can be expensive and carries the same risks as any other kind of surgery. In spite of this, it has become increasingly popular in recent years amongst both men and women. People who are dissatisfied with the way they look are often prepared to spend large amounts of money and undergo painful procedures in order to change their appearance (eg change the shape of their nose, remove wrinkles, increase the size of their lips).
- (a) Describe how the popularity of cosmetic surgery might be explained by **two** different approaches. *(6 marks + 6 marks)*
  - (b) Assess **one** of these explanations of the popularity of cosmetic surgery in terms of its strengths **and** limitations. *(6 marks)*
  - (c) How might the popularity of cosmetic surgery be investigated by **one** of these approaches? *(6 marks)*
  - (d) Evaluate the use of this method of investigating the popularity of cosmetic surgery. *(6 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**

**There are no questions printed on this page**