

General Certificate of Education  
January 2007  
Advanced Level Examination



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

**PYA5**

Thursday 25 January 2007 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. Where the term **research** appears in a question, you may refer to theories and/or studies as appropriate.
- 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.
- In all answers, you will be assessed on your ability to relate the given content to other areas of Psychology.
- Do all rough work in the answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

**Information**

- The maximum mark for this paper is 94.  
Four of these marks will be awarded for using good English, organising information clearly and using specialist vocabulary where appropriate.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.

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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 (a) Describe the major characteristics of **two** culture-bound syndromes (eg Koro, Dhat).  
(5 marks + 5 marks)
- (b) Briefly outline arguments **for** the existence of such culture-bound syndromes and evaluate the strength of these arguments. (20 marks)
- 2 ‘Psychological research has shown that people are much more likely to experience depression now than a hundred years ago. One explanation is that modern life involves high levels of stress and psychological pressures.’
- Discuss the view that depression can be explained primarily by psychological factors. (30 marks)
- 3 Describe and evaluate therapies derived from **either** the psychodynamic **or** the cognitive-behavioural models of abnormality. (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.

Where the term **research** appears in a question, you may refer to theories and/or studies as appropriate.

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- 4 Discuss **two or more** examples of gender bias in psychological studies. (30 marks)
- 5 (a) Describe constraints on the use of non-human animals in psychological investigations. (15 marks)
- (b) Evaluate arguments **against** the use of non-human animals in psychological investigations. (15 marks)
- 6 (a) Explain what is meant by the terms *free will* and *determinism*. (5 marks)
- (b) ‘Free will is simply an illusion. All our behaviour is determined by factors outside our direct control.’
- Discuss the view that human behaviour can be explained purely in terms of determinism. Use examples from psychological research in your answer. (25 marks)
- 7 Discuss assumptions made about nature and nurture in psychological research. (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 should clearly identify which approach you have used in each part of the question. 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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- 8** Some young people enjoy smoking cigarettes in spite of the expense and the health warnings printed on the packets. They also seem to ignore government advertising campaigns which try to highlight the dangers of smoking.
- (a) Describe how enjoyment of smoking by young people might be explained by **two** different approaches. *(6 marks + 6 marks)*
  - (b) Assess **one** of these explanations of the enjoyment of smoking by young people in terms of its strengths and limitations. *(6 marks)*
  - (c) How might enjoyment of smoking by young people be investigated by **one** of these approaches? *(6 marks)*
  - (d) Evaluate the use of this method of investigating the enjoyment of smoking by young people. *(6 marks)*
- 9** People have shown a lot of interest in home and garden make-overs, and there are many television programmes and magazines devoted to this topic. Some people spend significant amounts of money every year on buying items to improve their homes and gardens.
- (a) Describe how the interest in home and garden improvement might be explained by **two** different approaches. *(6 marks + 6 marks)*
  - (b) Assess **one** of these explanations of the interest in garden and home improvement in terms of its strengths and limitations. *(6 marks)*
  - (c) How might the interest in home and garden improvement be investigated by **one** of these approaches? *(6 marks)*
  - (d) Evaluate the use of this method of investigating the interest in home and garden improvement. *(6 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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