

General Certificate of Education  
January 2008  
Advanced Level Examination



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

**PYA5**

Thursday 24 January 2008 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.
- 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 Describe and evaluate ICD **and** DSM as approaches to the classification of psychological abnormality. (30 marks)
  - 2 (a) Outline clinical characteristics of any **one** anxiety disorder. (5 marks)  
(b) Discuss biological **and** psychological explanations of the anxiety disorder that you have outlined in part (a). (25 marks)
  - 3 (a) Describe **one** behavioural therapy based on classical conditioning and **one** behavioural therapy based on operant conditioning. (5 marks + 5 marks)  
(b) Discuss issues surrounding the use of behavioural therapies. (20 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 (a) Explain what is meant by the term *gender bias*. (5 marks)  
(b) 'Bias in psychological research has distorted our understanding of male and female behaviour.'  
Discuss gender bias in psychological theories **and/or** studies. (25 marks)
- 5 Discuss ethical issues involved in psychological investigations using human participants. Refer to **at least three** psychological studies in your answer. (30 marks)
- 6 (a) Explain what is meant by the term *science*. (5 marks)  
(b) Outline and evaluate arguments **for** the claim that Psychology is a science. (25 marks)
- 7 'It has been clear for some time that neither nature nor nurture alone can provide a complete explanation of human behaviour.'

Discuss assumptions made about the roles of both nature and nurture in influencing behaviour. Refer to psychological theories **and/or** studies in your answer. (30 marks)

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**SECTION C: PERSPECTIVES: APPROACHES**

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.

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** Some people feel that it is important to have clothes and electronic gadgets that carry famous brand names. Such people value possessions with so-called ‘designer labels’ and like to show them off. They pay high prices for them, even though they could buy similar items much more cheaply if they did not care so much about the labels.
- (a) Describe how the desire to own items with ‘designer labels’ might be explained by **two** different approaches. (6 marks + 6 marks)
  - (b) Assess **one** of these explanations of the desire to own items with ‘designer labels’ in terms of its strengths and limitations. (6 marks)
  - (c) How might the desire to own items with ‘designer labels’ be investigated by **one** of these approaches? (6 marks)
  - (d) Evaluate the use of this method of investigating the desire to own items with ‘designer labels’. (6 marks)
- 9** Medicine is a very popular subject at university, even though the entry standards are high and the courses are long and challenging. In spite of these difficulties, many A Level students decide to apply for these courses because they wish to become doctors. Young people are often attracted to the idea of being a doctor because it is perceived not only as a caring profession but also one of high status and potentially high earnings.
- (a) Describe how the wish to become a doctor might be explained by **two** different approaches. (6 marks + 6 marks)
  - (b) Assess **one** of these explanations of the wish to become a doctor in terms of its strengths and limitations. (6 marks)
  - (c) How might the wish to become a doctor be investigated by **one** of these approaches? (6 marks)
  - (d) Evaluate the use of this method of investigating the wish to become a doctor. (6 marks)

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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