

General Certificate of Education
June 2004
Advanced Level Examination



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

PYA5

Wednesday 23 June 2004 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm

In addition to this paper you will require:
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.
- 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.
- Mark allocations are shown in brackets.
- 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.

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.

- 1 “Research suggests that diagnostic/classificatory systems such as the DSM and the ICD have serious shortcomings, including those relating to reliability and validity.”
- (a) Outline the DSM **and** ICD approaches to the classification of psychological abnormality. *(15 marks)*
- (b) Evaluate the DSM **and/or** the ICD, with reference to issues such as those raised in the quotation above. *(15 marks)*
- 2 “Biological explanations of schizophrenia tell us all that we need to know about this disorder.”
- Critically consider biological explanations of schizophrenia, with reference to the issue raised in the quotation above. *(30 marks)*
- 3 Compare and contrast biological **and** behavioural therapies for treating mental disorders. *(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.

- 4 (a) Explain what is meant by the phrase “cultural bias”. *(5 marks)*
- (b) Discuss psychological research (theories **and/or** studies) in terms of its cultural bias. *(25 marks)*
- 5 Critically consider ethical issues that arise in psychological investigations involving human participants. *(30 marks)*
- 6 (a) Explain what is meant by the free will and determinism debate. *(5 marks)*
- (b) Discuss free will and determinism in relation to **two or more** psychological theories. *(25 marks)*
- 7 Describe **and** evaluate the claim that psychology is a science. *(30 marks)*

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.

- 8** A newspaper article claimed that many young people are going to the cinema these days to see horror films. Although the films are not particularly popular in terms of video and DVD rentals, many people are going to see them at cinemas, and there is evidence that the young people frequently go in groups to see the films. The young people say that they enjoy the experience of being shocked and frightened by sequences in the films, and enjoy sharing these moments with their friends.
- (a) Describe how the popularity of horror films might be explained by **two** different approaches. *(6 marks + 6 marks)*
 - (b) Assess **one** of these explanations of the popularity of horror films in terms of its strengths and limitations. *(6 marks)*
 - (c) How might the popularity of horror films be investigated by **one** of these approaches? *(6 marks)*
 - (d) Evaluate the use of this method of investigating the popularity of horror films. *(6 marks)*
- 9** Kirsty read her horoscope in the daily newspaper every morning. She also read other horoscopes in her teen magazine. She felt she needed to know whether a lucky or unlucky day lay ahead of her and what kinds of things were likely to happen to her. An unfavourable horoscope sometimes caused her to change her plans. However, a favourable horoscope made her feel good.
- (a) Describe how people's dependence on horoscopes might be explained by **two** different approaches. *(6 marks + 6 marks)*
 - (b) Assess **one** of these explanations of people's dependence on horoscopes in terms of its strengths and limitations. *(6 marks)*
 - (c) How might people's dependence on horoscopes be investigated by **one** of these approaches? *(6 marks)*
 - (d) Evaluate the use of this method of investigating people's dependence on horoscopes. *(6 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

THERE ARE NO QUESTIONS PRINTED ON THIS PAGE