

General Certificate of Education
June 2007
Advanced Level Examination



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

Wednesday 20 June 2007 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm

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

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

- 1 ‘Some psychologists believe that the symptoms of dissociative identity disorder arise spontaneously. Others suggest that this disorder is iatrogenic (manufactured by the therapist).’
- Discuss research into dissociative identity disorder, with reference to issues such as those raised in the quotation above. (30 marks)
- 2 Discuss **at least one** biological and **at least one** psychological explanation of any **one** anxiety disorder. (30 marks)
- 3 (a) Outline **three** different biological therapies. (15 marks)
- (b) Evaluate **one or more** of these biological therapies in terms of some of the issues surrounding their use (eg appropriateness and effectiveness). (15 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.

- 4 ‘Socially sensitive research can be controversial and some people say it should not be carried out at all. However, other people argue that such research is important because it can have beneficial effects.’
- (a) Explain what is meant by the term *socially sensitive research* in psychology. (5 marks)
- (b) Discuss the ethics of socially sensitive research in psychology. (25 marks)
- 5 ‘Some researchers believe that non-human animals are so similar to humans that they provide suitable subjects for research into human behaviour. However, if they are really so similar, such research raises significant ethical issues.’

Discuss the use of non-human animals in psychological investigations, with reference to issues such as those raised in the quotation above. (30 marks)

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- 6 (a) Describe **two or more** examples of reductionism in psychological theories and/or studies. (10 marks)
- (b) Outline arguments **for** reductionist explanations in psychological theories and/or studies and evaluate these arguments. (20 marks)
- 7 Outline and evaluate arguments **for** 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 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.

- 8 Sometimes, students delay writing up homework or revising for examinations even though they want to succeed and achieve high grades. Instead, they may go out with friends, watch television or even do things that they would not normally do, such as tidying their room or doing the washing up. This tendency to put off tasks, in this case homework or examination revision, is called procrastination.
- (a) Describe how procrastination might be explained by **two** different approaches. (6 marks + 6 marks)
- (b) Assess **one** of these explanations of procrastination in terms of its strengths and limitations. (6 marks)
- (c) How might procrastination be investigated by **one** of these approaches? (6 marks)
- (d) Evaluate the use of this method of investigating procrastination. (6 marks)
- 9 Lots of people find it very difficult to throw away any of their possessions. When people hang on to their possessions in this way, it is called hoarding. Some people hoard old letters, clothes, childhood toys, etc, and become irritated with friends or partners who try to persuade them to get rid of things which they do not use any more.
- (a) Describe how hoarding might be explained by **two** different approaches. (6 marks + 6 marks)
- (b) Assess **one** of these explanations of hoarding in terms of its strengths and limitations. (6 marks)
- (c) How might hoarding be investigated by **one** of these approaches? (6 marks)
- (d) Evaluate the use of this method of investigating hoarding. (6 marks)

There are no questions printed on this page