

General Certificate of Education  
June 2008  
Advanced Level Examination



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

**PYA5**

Monday 16 June 2008 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm

**For this paper you must have:**

- a 16-page answer book.

Time allowed: 2 hours

**Instructions**

- Use black ink or black 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.

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

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- 1 (a) Describe **two** case studies of dissociative identity disorder. (10 marks)
- (b) Outline and evaluate research into dissociative identity disorder as a spontaneous or iatrogenic (manufactured by the therapist) phenomenon. (20 marks)

- 2 ‘Depression tends to run in families and symptoms are similar across cultures, gender and ages. This suggests that biological mechanisms play a strong part in the development of the disorder.’

Describe and evaluate explanations of depression. Refer to issues such as those raised in the above quotation. (30 marks)

- 3 ‘Therapies can sometimes be expensive, time-consuming and even uncomfortable. It is, therefore, important that the therapy chosen is the most appropriate and effective one for any particular individual.’

Discuss biological therapies with reference to issues such as those raised in the above quotation. (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 cultural bias in psychological research. (30 marks)

- 5 (a) Identify **two** psychological studies that can be considered socially sensitive. Explain why each study can be considered socially sensitive. (15 marks)

- (b) Consider the extent to which it is ethically justifiable for psychologists to carry out socially sensitive research. (15 marks)

- 6 Using psychological research to illustrate your answer, discuss arguments **against** free will. (30 marks)

- 7 Outline examples of reductionism in psychological research, and discuss arguments **for** reductionist explanations. (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 love going out and being sociable. They are miserable if they have to be on their own for any length of time. They are really only happy when they are in a group and doing something active. They love the noise and buzz of parties, and would prefer to go out rather than stay in and watch television or read a book.
- (a) Describe how being sociable might be explained by **two** different approaches. *(6 marks + 6 marks)*
  - (b) Assess **one** of these explanations of being sociable in terms of its strengths **and** limitations. *(6 marks)*
  - (c) How might being sociable be investigated by **one** of these approaches? *(6 marks)*
  - (d) Evaluate the use of this method of investigating being sociable. *(6 marks)*
- 9** Some people are very superstitious and think that they will have bad luck if they do not behave in a certain way. Sometimes this involves avoidance behaviour, such as not travelling on Friday 13th, not walking under ladders and not stepping on the cracks in the pavement, etc. For other people, it involves ritualistic behaviour, such as always wearing a particular shirt to watch their favourite football team or taking a 'lucky mascot' into an examination.
- (a) Describe how being superstitious might be explained by **two** different approaches. *(6 marks + 6 marks)*
  - (b) Assess **one** of these explanations of being superstitious in terms of its strengths **and** limitations. *(6 marks)*
  - (c) How might being superstitious be investigated by **one** of these approaches? *(6 marks)*
  - (d) Evaluate the use of this method of investigating being superstitious. *(6 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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