

General Certificate of Education
June 2003
Advanced Level Examination



PSYCHOLOGY (SPECIFICATION B) PYB5
Unit 5 Perspectives, Debates and Methods in Psychology

Tuesday 17 June 2003 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm

<p>In addition to this paper you will require: a 16-page answer book.</p>
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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 PYB5.
- ∞ Answer **three** questions.
- ∞ Answer **one** question from **Section A**, **one** question from **Section B** and the **compulsory** question in **Section C**.
- ∞ 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 60.
- ∞ Mark allocations are shown in brackets.
- ∞ Questions carrying 12 marks should be answered in continuous prose. Quality of written communication will be assessed in these answers.
- ∞ In answers to questions carrying 12 marks, you will be assessed on your ability to use an appropriate form and style of writing, to organise relevant information clearly and coherently, and to use specialist vocabulary, where appropriate. The degree of legibility of your handwriting and the level of accuracy of your spelling, punctuation and grammar will also be taken into account.

SECTION A: PERSPECTIVES IN PSYCHOLOGY

Answer **one** question from this Section.

Each question carries 20 marks.

- 1** (a) Outline what is meant by the term *reinforcement* and use an example to explain its role in operant conditioning. (3 marks)
- (b) Describe **one** study in which observational learning was investigated. Indicate in your answer why the study was conducted, the method used, results obtained and conclusion drawn. (5 marks)
- (c) Discuss **at least two** limitations of the behaviourist perspective in psychology. Refer to **at least one** other perspective in your answer. (12 marks)
- 2** (a) Outline **two** features of the humanistic perspective in psychology. (4 marks)
- (b) Jack is a young inexperienced lawyer who finds that he often loses his temper at work.
- Outline how psychologists from **one** of the following perspectives might attempt to explain why Jack loses his temper at work:
- ∞ Behaviourist;
 - ∞ Cognitive;
 - ∞ Psychoanalytic. (4 marks)
- (c) Describe and discuss **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of an eclectic approach to the understanding of human behaviour. In your answer refer to **at least one** topic area in psychology. (12 marks)

SECTION B: DEBATES IN PSYCHOLOGY

Answer **one** question from this Section.

Each question carries 20 marks.

- 3 (a) Outline what is meant by *empirical* evidence in psychological research. (2 marks)
- (b) Some perspectives in psychology can be regarded as unscientific. Explain **two** reasons why the psychoanalytic approach may be seen as unscientific. (6 marks)
- (c) Consider the following conversation between a behaviourist and a cognitive psychologist.
- Behaviourist: "Psychology should be a scientific discipline, so overt behaviour is the proper subject matter of psychology, not mental processes."
- Cognitive psychologist: "I agree that psychology should be scientific. I believe it is possible to study internal mental processes scientifically."
- Discuss the view that private experience and mental processes can be studied scientifically. (12 marks)
- 4 (a) Explain what is meant by the *nature-nurture* debate in psychology. (4 marks)
- (b) Choose **one** topic in psychology in which the contributions of nature and nurture have been investigated. Briefly discuss support for the **nature** side of the debate in relation to this topic. (4 marks)
- (c) Describe and discuss the free will and determinism debate. Refer to the biological **and** humanistic perspectives in your answer. (12 marks)

TURN OVER FOR THE NEXT SECTION

SECTION C: METHODS IN PSYCHOLOGY

Answer **all** parts of this **compulsory** question.

- 5 A psychologist wanted to find out whether young children with low self-esteem avoid situations where the focus of attention is on themselves. He was not aware of any previous research findings in this area.

A random sample of 60 children from one primary school was obtained. Each child was given a standardised test to measure self-esteem. The psychologist used the scores from this test to assign each of the children to one of the following groups:

- ∞ a high self-esteem group;
- ∞ a medium self-esteem group;
- ∞ a low self-esteem group.

Each child was asked whether he/she would like to be the main actor or have a minor role in a school play. Their responses are given in **Table 1** below.

Self-esteem level	Main role	Minor role
Low	5	11
Medium	13	13
High	12	6

Table 1 Number of children choosing a main role or minor role in a school play

- (a) Outline what is meant by a random sample and suggest **one** way the psychologist could have obtained a random sample of children from the school. *(3 marks)*
- (b) A Chi-square test was carried out on the data shown in **Table 1**.
- (i) State **two** conditions required for the use of the Chi-square test. *(2 marks)*
- (ii) Should the psychologist have used a one-tailed or two-tailed test? Justify your answer. *(2 marks)*

In a second part of the study, the parents of all sixteen children identified as having low self-esteem were approached and offered a programme to help raise the self-esteem of their children. Fourteen children took part in the programme and completed the self-esteem test again one month after the programme had been completed. Each child's score after the programme was compared with his or her original score. Ten children showed an increase, one a decrease and three no change in self-esteem.

- (c) Name an appropriate statistical test that could be used to establish whether or not there was a significant increase in self-esteem. Briefly justify your answer. *(3 marks)*
- (d) Identify **one** ethical issue raised by this study and explain how it could have been addressed by the psychologist. *(3 marks)*
- (e) Identify and explain **one** way in which the psychologist could have checked that changes in self-esteem were the result of the programme. *(3 marks)*
- (f) The psychologist decided to interview a sample of the parents whose children took part in the programme once it had been completed.

Briefly discuss **one** strength of a structured approach to interviewing. *(4 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS