

General Certificate of Education
June 2005
Advanced Level Examination



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

PYB5

Wednesday 22 June 2005 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm

In addition to this paper you will require:

- a 16-page answer book.
- You may use a calculator.

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 Samantha described a frightening experience to her friends.

“I was alone in the house and it was pitch black. I was just dropping off to sleep when I became aware of something moving outside my bedroom door. My heart leapt to my mouth and I sat bolt upright in bed, sweating and shaking. The door opened very slowly and in came the neighbour’s cat! I had left a window open.”

- (a) Outline the role of the autonomic nervous system in behaviour. Refer to Samantha’s frightening experience in your answer. *(4 marks)*
- (b) Briefly discuss **one** limitation of the biological perspective in explaining behaviour. *(4 marks)*
- (c) Outline and compare the cognitive and behaviourist approaches in psychology. *(12 marks)*

2 (a) The psychoanalytic perspective in psychology includes a number of different theories.

Briefly discuss **one** difference between Freud’s theory and **one** post-Freudian psychoanalytic theory. *(4 marks)*

- (b) Explain how **one** case study reported by Freud demonstrates a psychoanalytic concept. *(4 marks)*
- (c) Describe and evaluate the humanistic perspective in psychology. Refer to **at least one** other perspective in your answer. *(12 marks)*

SECTION B: DEBATES IN PSYCHOLOGY

Answer **one** question from this Section.

Each question carries 20 marks.

- 3 (a) A physicist, speaking at a conference, claimed that, "Psychology can never be a science. Unlike physics, much of psychology is subjective and cannot test its hypotheses in objective ways."
- (i) Outline what is meant by *hypothesis testing* and explain the role of hypothesis testing in scientific research. (4 marks)
- (ii) Briefly discuss why some psychologists might disagree with the physicist's claim that psychology cannot test hypotheses in objective ways. Refer to **one** example of psychological research in your answer. (4 marks)
- (b) Describe and discuss limitations of the scientific approach in the study of human behaviour. Illustrate your answer with examples from psychology. (12 marks)
- 4 (a) (i) Outline what is meant by the *mind-body debate* and briefly explain the importance of this debate in psychology. (4 marks)
- (ii) Choose **one** perspective in psychology and briefly discuss the mind-body debate in relation to this perspective. (4 marks)
- (b) The following statement was made by a psychologist:
- "The best way to understand human beings is to reduce the whole to the simplest component parts."
- Describe and discuss the holism and reductionism debate in psychology. Refer to **at least one** topic that you have studied in psychology to illustrate your answer. (12 marks)

TURN OVER FOR THE NEXT SECTION

Turn over ►

SECTION C: METHODS IN PSYCHOLOGY

Answer **all** parts of this compulsory question which carries 20 marks.

- 5 A psychology lecturer noticed that arts students seemed to be more opposed to their country going to war than science students. The lecturer decided to construct a questionnaire which would measure attitudes towards going to war. This would then be used to investigate whether or not differences in these attitudes exist between science and arts students.

To construct the questionnaire, the lecturer produced a number of statements which expressed attitudes either for or against going to war. These statements were then given to his colleagues, who were each asked individually to judge the extent to which each statement represented an attitude for or against going to war. The questionnaire was finally made up of ten statements. There was clear agreement that each statement represented an attitude about going to war. One statement from the questionnaire is given below. A high score indicates an attitude against going to war.

War can never be justified.

<i>Strongly agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Neither agree nor disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly disagree</i>
5	4	3	2	1

The lecturer then asked all of his students to find two participants each, one science student and one arts student, to complete the ten-statement questionnaire.

The scores of the arts and science students were compared using an inferential statistical test. A significant difference at the 5% level was found between the two groups.

- (a) State a suitable research/alternative hypothesis for the study. (2 marks)
- (b) The lecturer decided to set a significance level of 5%.

What is meant by *significance level*? Explain why the psychology lecturer might have chosen the 5% level. (3 marks)

- (c) Name an appropriate statistical test that the psychology lecturer could have used to compare the scores of the arts and science students. Justify your answer. (3 marks)
- (d) Identify **one** reason why the lecturer should be cautious about generalising on the basis of the findings of the study. Explain your answer. (2 marks)
- (e) Explain why it is important that the lecturer selected statements that the judges thought clearly represented an attitude about going to war. (2 marks)

The lecturer decided to check the reliability of the questionnaire. Three weeks later, he instructed each of his students to re-test their two participants, using the same questionnaire. A correlation was calculated between the participants' original scores and their re-test scores. The correlation coefficient was +0.91 and this was significant at the 1% level.

- (f) (i) What does the correlation of +0.91 indicate about the reliability of the scale? Explain your answer. *(2 marks)*
- (ii) Outline **one** reason why the lecturer may have decided to have a gap of three weeks between testing and re-testing the participants. *(2 marks)*
- (g) Briefly discuss **one** strength and **one** weakness of using a quantitative method to measure attitudes. *(4 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

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