

General Certificate of Education  
June 2006  
Advanced Level Examination



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

**PYA5**

Wednesday 21 June 2006 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.
- 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.  
4 of these marks are for the Quality of Written Communication.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers. All questions should be answered in continuous prose. Quality of Written Communication will be assessed in all answers.

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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.

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- 1 'ICD and DSM were developed in an attempt to improve the reliability and validity of classification and diagnosis of psychological abnormality.'

Discuss research into the reliability and validity of classification and diagnosis of psychological abnormality. (30 marks)

- 2 (a) Outline **two or more** psychological explanations of schizophrenia. (15 marks)

(b) To what extent is it possible to explain schizophrenia purely in terms of psychological explanations? (15 marks)

- 3 Outline and evaluate behavioural therapies based on classical conditioning **and** operant conditioning. (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.

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- 4 (a) Outline what is meant by *cultural bias*. (5 marks)

(b) Describe cultural bias in **two** psychological studies. (10 marks)

(c) 'Psychological research carried out in Europe and the United States is relevant to all other cultures.'

Consider the extent to which this statement is true. (15 marks)

- 5 Discuss the ethics of socially sensitive research in psychology. (30 marks)

- 6 Discuss reductionism with reference to **two or more** psychological theories. (30 marks)

- 7 (a) Explain what is meant by the *nature-nurture debate*. (5 marks)

(b) Discuss different views regarding the relationship between nature and nurture in psychological theory (eg gene-environment interaction). (25 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 will be assessed on your ability to relate the given content to other areas of Psychology.

In your answer to the question, you should clearly identify which approach you have used in each part of the question.

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- 8** Many people in Western countries respond to appeals that are launched following major disasters in other parts of the world: for example, the Asian tsunami. During fundraising events, such as Comic Relief and Live Aid, millions of pounds are donated for victims of famine and disease in Africa.
- (a) Describe how giving money in response to appeals might be explained by **two** different approaches. *(6 marks + 6 marks)*
  - (b) Assess **one** of these explanations of why people give money to appeals in terms of its strengths and limitations. *(6 marks)*
  - (c) How might giving money in response to appeals be investigated by **one** of these approaches? *(6 marks)*
  - (d) Evaluate the use of this method of investigating why people give money to disaster appeals. *(6 marks)*
- 9** Traditionally, holidays have been seen as an opportunity to relax and rest, for example, by going to the beach and swimming. However, some people are using their holidays to do something adventurous, perhaps even dangerous: for example, some people go trekking or mountaineering in remote areas, or take up activities such as white-water rafting or paragliding.
- (a) Describe how the desire for adventure holidays might be explained by **two** different approaches. *(6 marks + 6 marks)*
  - (b) Assess **one** of these explanations of the desire for adventure holidays in terms of its strengths and limitations. *(6 marks)*
  - (c) How might the desire for adventure holidays be investigated by **one** of these approaches? *(6 marks)*
  - (d) Evaluate the use of this method of investigating the desire for adventure holidays. *(6 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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