

General Certificate of Education
January 2004
Advanced Level Examination



PSYCHOLOGY (SPECIFICATION A) PYA4
**Unit 4 Social Psychology, Physiological Psychology,
Cognitive Psychology, Developmental Psychology
and Comparative Psychology**

Friday 23 January 2004 9.00 am to 10.30 am

In addition to this paper you will require:
a 16-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

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 PYA4.
- Answer **three** questions in total. These must be taken from **at least two** different Sections.
- 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 76.
- Mark allocations are shown in brackets.
- In addition to the mark allocations indicated within the paper, you will be awarded up to 4 marks for your ability to organise and present information, ideas, descriptions and arguments clearly and logically. Account will be taken of your use of grammar, punctuation and spelling and the legibility of your handwriting.

Answer **three** questions from **at least two** different Sections.

SECTION A – SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

- 1 Critically consider research (theories **and/or** studies) relating to the nature of social representations. *(24 marks)*

 - 2 Describe and evaluate research (explanations **and/or** studies) relating to differences between relationships in Western and non-Western cultures. *(24 marks)*

 - 3 Describe and evaluate research (theories **and/or** studies) into the effects of **two or more** environmental stressors on aggressive behaviour. *(24 marks)*
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SECTION B – PHYSIOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY

- 4 (a) Outline **two** methods used to investigate the brain. *(12 marks)*

(b) Evaluate each of the **two** methods of investigating the brain that you outlined in part (a) in terms of their strengths **and** limitations. *(12 marks)*

 - 5 Outline and evaluate research studies of **two** biological rhythms (e.g. circadian, infradian, ultradian rhythms). *(24 marks)*

 - 6 Discuss research (theories **and/or** studies) relating to the role of brain structures in **one or more** motivational states. *(24 marks)*
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SECTION C – COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

- 7 (a) Outline **two** explanations of focused (selective) attention. *(12 marks)*

(b) Evaluate the **two** explanations of focused (selective) attention that you outlined in part (a) in terms of relevant research studies. *(12 marks)*

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- 8 Describe and evaluate research (theories **and/or** studies) into **one or more** forms of visual information processing (e.g. sensory adaptation, the processing of contrast, colour, features).
(24 marks)
- 9 (a) Outline and evaluate **one** environmental (e.g. learning) explanation of language development.
(12 marks)
- (b) Outline and evaluate **one** nativist (e.g. Chomsky) explanation of language development.
(12 marks)
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SECTION D – DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

- 10 Describe and evaluate research (theories **and/or** studies) into the role of genetics in the development of intelligence test performance.
(24 marks)
- 11 Critically consider **one or more** explanations of the development of gender roles **and/or** gender identity.
(24 marks)
- 12 Discuss research (theories **and/or** studies) relating to gender differences in **two** aspects of adult relationships (e.g. marriage, divorce, parenthood).
(24 marks)
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SECTION E – COMPARATIVE PSYCHOLOGY

- 13 Discuss research (explanations **and/or** studies) relating to the role of social learning in the behaviour of non-human animals.
(24 marks)
- 14 (a) Outline **two** explanations of animal navigation.
(12 marks)
- (b) Evaluate the **two** explanations of animal navigation that you outlined in part (a) in terms of relevant research studies.
(12 marks)
- 15 Discuss the relationship between sexual selection and human reproductive behaviour. (24 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS