

General Certificate of Education  
January 2005  
Advanced Level Examination



**PSYCHOLOGY (SPECIFICATION A) PYA5**  
**Unit 5 Individual Differences; Perspectives: Issues and Debates; Approaches**

Tuesday 25 January 2005 9.00am to 11.00am

**In addition to this paper you will require:**  
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.
- 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.
- 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.

---

**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.

---

- 1 (a) Describe **two or more** case studies of Multiple Personality Disorder (Dissociative Identity Disorder). *(15 marks)*
- (b) To what extent do case studies, such as those described in part (a), lead us to believe that Multiple Personality Disorder is iatrogenic (manufactured by the therapist)? *(15 marks)*
- 2 Compare and contrast biological and psychological explanations of depression. *(30 marks)*
- 3 “Some psychologists claim that behavioural therapies are unethical and of limited value because they treat symptoms rather than causes.”

Discuss behavioural therapies for treating mental disorders with reference to issues such as those raised in the quotation above. *(30 marks)*

---

**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.

---

- 4 With reference to **two or more** theories, discuss gender bias in psychology. *(30 marks)*
- 5 “Psychology has tended to present a view of human behaviour that applies only to members of Western cultures and tells us little about the vast majority of human kind.”
- Discuss cultural bias in psychological research (theories **and/or** studies) with reference to issues such as the one raised in the quotation above. *(30 marks)*
- 6 Critically consider arguments **against** reductionist explanations in psychology. *(30 marks)*
- 7 (a) Explain what is meant by the terms nature and nurture. *(5 marks)*
- (b) Outline the history of the nature-nurture debate in psychology. *(10 marks)*
- (c) To what extent is it possible to explain behaviour in terms of **only** nature **or** nurture? *(15 marks)*

---

**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.

---

- 8** A survey has shown that a large number of people have a dread of ageing. They are particularly worried about looking old and spend a great deal of time and money to ensure that they look young for as long as possible.
- (a) Describe how **two** approaches might try to explain the desire to look young. *(6 marks + 6 marks)*
  - (b) Assess **one** of these explanations for the desire to look young in terms of its strengths and limitations. *(6 marks)*
  - (c) How would **one** of these approaches investigate the desire to look young? *(6 marks)*
  - (d) Evaluate the use of this method of investigating the desire to look young. *(6 marks)*
- 9** Selina and her friends love going out to clubs on Friday and Saturday nights. They particularly enjoy dancing for hours and meeting new people. They see going to clubs and dancing for hours as the best thing in their lives, and get a tremendous amount of pleasure from it.
- (a) Describe how **two** approaches might try to explain the enjoyment derived from going out to clubs. *(6 marks + 6 marks)*
  - (b) Assess **one** of these explanations for the enjoyment derived from going out to clubs in terms of its strengths and limitations. *(6 marks)*
  - (c) How would **one** of these approaches investigate how going out to clubs produces enjoyment in young people? *(6 marks)*
  - (d) Evaluate the use of this method of investigating how going out to clubs produces enjoyment in young people. *(6 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**