

General Certificate of Education
June 2006
Advanced Level Examination



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

Tuesday 13 June 2006 9.00 am to 10.30 am

For this paper you must have:

- 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.
- Where the term **research** appears in a question, you may refer to theories and/or studies as appropriate.
- Do all work in the answer book. Cross through any work you do not want marked.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 76.
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.

Answer **three** questions in total. These must be taken from **at least two** different sections.

Where the term **research** appears in a question, you may refer to theories and/or studies as appropriate.

SECTION A: SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

- 1 Discuss **one or more** explanations relating to the reduction of prejudice. *(24 marks)*
 - 2 Outline and evaluate **two** explanations relating to the breakdown of relationships. *(24 marks)*
 - 3 Discuss research into the effects of environmental stressors on aggressive behaviour. *(24 marks)*
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SECTION B: PHYSIOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY

- 4 (a) Outline the functional organisation of the cerebral cortex. *(12 marks)*
(b) Using research evidence, explain how 'distributed functions' offers an alternative to 'localisation of function' as a way of understanding the functioning of the cerebral cortex. *(12 marks)*
 - 5 Outline and evaluate **two** theories relating to the functions of sleep. *(24 marks)*
 - 6 Outline and evaluate the role of brain structures (eg hypothalamus) in **one or more** motivational states (eg hunger, thirst). *(24 marks)*
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SECTION C: COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

- 7 (a) Outline **one** early-selection model of selective attention (eg Broadbent, Treisman) and **one** late-selection model of selective attention (eg Deutsch and Deutsch). *(12 marks)*
(b) Evaluate **one** of the models of selective attention that you have outlined in (a). *(12 marks)*
- 8 (a) Outline the structure and functions of the visual system. *(12 marks)*
(b) Explain **one or more** aspects of visual information processing (eg sensory adaptation, the processing of contrast, colour, features). *(12 marks)*
- 9 (a) Outline the linguistic relativity hypothesis. *(6 marks)*
(b) Outline and evaluate research relating to the linguistic relativity hypothesis. *(18 marks)*

SECTION D: DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

- 10** Describe Piaget's theory of cognitive development and evaluate it in terms of its applications (eg to education). *(24 marks)*
- 11** Outline and evaluate **two or more** explanations of the development of gender identity **and/or** gender roles. *(24 marks)*
- 12** Discuss research into the effects on the individual of **one or more** of the following:
- marriage
 - divorce
 - parenthood.
- (24 marks)*
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SECTION E: COMPARATIVE PSYCHOLOGY

- 13** Discuss the role of social learning in the behaviour of non-human animals. *(24 marks)*
- 14** Critically consider explanations of animal navigation. *(24 marks)*
- 15** Discuss evolutionary explanations of **one or more** human mental disorders. *(24 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page