



General Certificate of Education
January 2010
Advanced Level Examination

Psychology (Specification A)

PSYA3

Unit 3 Topics in Psychology

Friday 29 January 2010 9.00 am to 10.30 am

For this paper you must have:

- a 12-page answer book.

Time allowed

- 1 hour 30 minutes

Instructions

- Use black ink or black 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 PSYA3.
- Answer **three** questions in total. Where appropriate, refer to theories and/or studies, approaches, issues and debates in your answer.
- Do all rough work in the answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 75.
- You should answer all questions in continuous prose. You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Answer **three** questions.

Where appropriate, refer to theories and/or studies, approaches, issues and debates in your answer.

BIOLOGICAL RHYTHMS AND SLEEP

Total for this question: 25 marks

- 1 (a) Outline **one** example of a circadian rhythm. *(4 marks)*
- (b) (i) Outline **one or more** explanations for sleep disorders (eg insomnia, sleep walking, narcolepsy). *(5 marks)*
- (ii) Evaluate **one or more** explanations for sleep disorders. *(16 marks)*
-

PERCEPTION

Total for this question: 25 marks

- 2 Discuss the nature-nurture debate in relation to explanations of perceptual development. *(25 marks)*
-

RELATIONSHIPS

Total for this question: 25 marks

- 3 ‘To put it at its most basic, women want resources and men want to spread their genes.’

Discuss the evolutionary approach to explaining parental investment in humans (eg sex differences, parent-offspring conflict).

(25 marks)

AGGRESSION

Total for this question: 25 marks

- 4 Discuss explanations of institutional aggression. *(25 marks)*

EATING BEHAVIOUR

Total for this question: 25 marks

5 'Dieting often fails because people are trying to go against their biological drive to eat.'

Discuss explanations for the success **and/or** failure of dieting. *(25 marks)*

GENDER

Total for this question: 25 marks

6 (a) Outline psychological **and** biological explanations of gender development. *(9 marks)*

(b) Consider whether psychological or biological approaches provide the better explanation of gender development. *(16 marks)*

INTELLIGENCE AND LEARNING

Total for this question: 25 marks

7 'We now realise that animal behaviour can be too complex to be explained through simple conditioning.'

Discuss evidence for intelligence in non-human animals. *(25 marks)*

COGNITION AND DEVELOPMENT

Total for this question: 25 marks

8 (a) Describe **one** theory of cognitive development. *(9 marks)*

(b) Consider ways in which research into cognitive development has been applied to education. *(16 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page