

General Certificate of Education  
June 2003  
Advanced Level Examination



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

**PYA5**

Tuesday 17 June 2003 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm

**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. You should attempt **all** parts of the question you choose.
- ∞ In Section B answer **one** question. You should attempt **all** parts of the question you choose.
- ∞ 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.

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**SECTION A – INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES**

Answer **one** question from this Section.

You should attempt **all** parts of the question you choose.

In 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 “Research into Multiple Personality Disorder, such as the case study of Eve by Thigpen and Cleckley, suggests that this is a spontaneous rather than iatrogenic phenomenon.”

Critically consider whether Multiple Personality Disorder (Dissociative Identity Disorder) is an iatrogenic or spontaneous phenomenon. *(30 marks)*

- 2 Compare and contrast **two or more** explanations of **one** anxiety disorder. *(30 marks)*

- 3 (a) Describe **one** therapy derived from either a psychodynamic **or** a cognitive-behavioural model of abnormality. *(15 marks)*

(b) Assess the therapy you described in part (a) in terms of **two or more** issues (e.g. appropriateness and effectiveness) surrounding its use. *(15 marks)*

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**SECTION B – PERSPECTIVES: ISSUES AND DEBATES**

Answer **one** question from this Section.

You should attempt **all** parts of the question you choose.

In 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 “There have been many instances of psychological research that have shown gender biases (such as alpha bias, beta bias and androcentrism). These biases may distort the value of such research.”

With reference to issues such as those raised by the quotation above, discuss gender bias in psychology. *(30 marks)*

- 5 Discuss ethical issues relating to **two or more** psychological investigations that have involved human participants. *(30 marks)*

- 6 Critically consider whether psychology is a science. *(30 marks)*

- 7 (a) Explain what is meant by reductionism. *(5 marks)*

(b) Describe and evaluate the case for reductionist explanations in psychology. *(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 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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- 8** It has been claimed by some people that there is a growing trend for “body decoration” in young people in Britain today. Many young men and young women now display a wide range of tattoos and have almost every conceivable part of their bodies pierced and adorned with jewellery. How might this be explained?
- (a) Describe how **two** approaches might try to explain the desire for body decoration.  
*(6 marks + 6 marks)*
  - (b) Assess **one** of these explanations of the desire for body decoration in terms of its strengths and limitations.  
*(6 marks)*
  - (c) How would **one** of these approaches investigate the desire for body decoration?  
*(6 marks)*
  - (d) Evaluate the use of this method of investigating the desire for body decoration.  
*(6 marks)*
- 9** Henry is a man who often finds it difficult to distinguish between reality and fantasy. For example, he believes that he is better than anyone else at the job that he does, and that rapid promotion will inevitably follow when other people realise this too. However, few of his colleagues believe this and they feel that Henry is not really facing up to the realities of his everyday life. How might this be explained?
- (a) Describe how **two** approaches might try to explain Henry’s difficulty in distinguishing reality from fantasy.  
*(6 marks + 6 marks)*
  - (b) Assess **one** of these explanations of Henry’s difficulty in distinguishing reality from fantasy in terms of its strengths and limitations.  
*(6 marks)*
  - (c) How would **one** of these approaches investigate Henry’s difficulty in distinguishing reality from fantasy?  
*(6 marks)*
  - (d) Evaluate the use of this method of investigating Henry’s difficulty in distinguishing reality from fantasy.  
*(6 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**