

General Certificate of Education
January 2006
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



PSYCHOLOGY (SPECIFICATION A)
Unit 2 Physiological Psychology and Individual Differences

PYA2

Wednesday 11 January 2006 9.00 am to 10.00 am

For this paper you must have:

- an 8-page answer book

Time allowed: 1 hour

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 PYA2.
- 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.
- Do all rough work in the answer book. Cross through any work you do not want marked.
- Where the term **research** appears in a question, you may refer to theories and/or studies as appropriate.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 62.
2 of these marks will be awarded 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.

SECTION A – PHYSIOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY

Answer **one** question from this section.

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

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

1**Total for this question: 30 marks**

- (a) Outline **two** ways in which the body responds to stressors. *(3 marks + 3 marks)*
- (b) Describe **one** physiological approach to stress management (eg drugs, biofeedback). *(6 marks)*
- (c) ‘Research has shown that factors such as personality and gender can affect how people cope with stress.’

Discuss ways in which individual differences can modify the effects of stressors.

(18 marks)

2**Total for this question: 30 marks**

- (a) Outline findings of research into workplace stressors. *(6 marks)*
- (b) Describe the procedures of **one** study of the relationship between stress and cardiovascular disorders. Give **one** criticism of this study. *(3 marks + 3 marks)*
- (c) Describe and evaluate **one or more** psychological approaches to stress management (eg stress-inoculation, increasing hardiness). *(18 marks)*

SECTION B – INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

Answer **one** question from this section.

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

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

3**Total for this question: 30 marks**

- (a) Explain **one or more** assumptions of the behavioural model in relation to causes of abnormality. *(6 marks)*
- (b)
 - (i) Identify and explain **one** definition of abnormality. *(3 marks)*
 - (ii) Explain **one** limitation of this definition of abnormality. *(3 marks)*
- (c) Outline and evaluate the biological explanation of **one or more** eating disorders. *(18 marks)*

4**Total for this question: 30 marks**

- (a) Explain **one or more** assumptions of the cognitive model in relation to the causes of abnormality. *(6 marks)*
- (b) Describe the findings and conclusions of **one** study into psychological explanations of eating disorders. *(6 marks)*
- (c) Outline the psychodynamic model of abnormality and consider its strengths and limitations. *(18 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page