

MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD
UNIVERSITY OF MALTA, MSIDA
MATRICULATION EXAMINATION
INTERMEDIATE LEVEL
MAY 2014

SUBJECT:	PSYCHOLOGY
DATE:	19th May 2014
TIME:	9.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon

This examination paper has two Sections. Answer both Section A and Section B. Follow instructions given in each Section

Section A (40 marks)

Answer question 1 and another question from this section. Each question carries 20 marks.

- 1a. Imagine you are a psychologist and you have been asked to investigate the trauma experienced by refugees who had to leave their countries of origin. Would you study this research question in a qualitative or a quantitative way? Why? *(10 marks)*
- b. Give a detailed explanation of how you would select the participants and what data collecting tool you would use. *(10 marks)*

2. Do you agree with the statement “we are the authors of our own lives”? Explain the nature-nurture debate and how it supports your position on the above statement. *(20 marks)*

- 3a. Describe Milgram’s (1969) study of obedience and explain what this experiment reveals about obedience to authority. *(12 marks)*
- b. Distinguish between conformity and obedience. Use findings from the social approach to explain a real-life case of either conformity or obedience. *(8 marks)*

Please turn the page for Section B.

Section B. (60 marks)

Answer question 4 and another question from this section. Each question carries 30 marks.

Question 4

Sean and Maria are a married couple with a 7-year-old son, Liam. Liam is in Year 3, but Liam has been refusing to go to school for several weeks. Sometimes, Sean and Maria are able to coax or force him to go to school, but other times, he stays home the entire day. Almost every school-day morning begins with Liam refusing to get dressed to go to school. Sean and Maria have been unable to overcome this refusal, and if they try to dress him themselves, he squirms, runs out of the room, cries, and screams. Liam's behavior has caused significant strain on the marriage. Sean and Maria frequently and intensely argue about the ideal way to handle Liam. Generally, Maria is more sympathetic and concerned about exploring the underlying roots of his behaviour, whereas Sean prefers to make hard-and-fast rules or demands that will force Liam to behave more appropriately regarding any underlying causes. There is significantly more hostility and less warmth in the home since Liam began this behaviour, and Sean and Maria are concerned that the problem isn't improving.

- What psychological theories might help a psychologist in working with the family on some of the issues they are facing? *(2 marks)*
- What approaches might psychologists use to help resolve some of the issues being faced by this family? *(12 marks)*
- Choose ONE character in the story and reflect on what is happening to them inside and how this is affecting their behaviour. *(8 marks)*
- Mention one difficult experience you remember and describe a psychological theory that may shed light on what might have been taking place from a psychological point of view. *(8 marks)*

(30 marks)

Question 5

- How do you define a psychological disorder? Describe the main features of mood disorders. *(4, 10 marks)*
- Define (a) post-traumatic stress disorder (b) schizophrenia. Describe the typical symptoms and behaviours of persons who suffer from (a) and from (b). *(8, 8 marks)*

(30 marks)

Question 6

- What is stress? A person experiencing stress can show different symptoms. These can be classified under four main types of effects. Mention these four types of effects associated with stress giving one example of each type. *(4, 16 marks)*
- Sarah was promoted to team leader in a busy call centre and has noticed that she is experiencing more illness than she used to. Use examples from studies to explain this. *(10 marks)*

(30 marks)