

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

SUBJECT:	PSYCHOLOGY
DATE:	5th September 2014
TIME:	4.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

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.

Question 1:

- a) What are the differences between qualitative and quantitative research methods? Give the strengths and weaknesses associated with each approach. (6 marks)
- b) Explain the advantages and disadvantages of experiments and in-depth interviews. (4 marks)
- c) Describe a research question that can be investigated using a questionnaire. Why is a questionnaire the best way to investigate this question? And what is the best sampling method to use for such a study? (5 marks)
- d) Describe a research question (different from (c) above) that can be investigated using in depth interviewing. Why is this method the best way to investigate this question? And what is the best sampling method to use for such a study? (5 marks)

Question 2:

- a) Who pioneered behaviourism? Explain two ways how behaviour change can occur using theories from the behaviourist approach. (2, 10 marks)
- b) Use social learning theory to explain how role models can have an influence on anorexia. (8 marks)

Question 3:

- a) Explain the main assumptions underlying the psychoanalytic approach. What are the strengths and weaknesses of this approach? Explain why psychoanalysis gives so much importance to the early years of life. (10 marks)
- b) What are defense mechanisms? Describe five of these defense mechanisms giving examples for each. (10 marks)

Section B (60 marks). Answer question 4 and another question from this section. Each question carries 30 marks.

Question 4:

Joseph is a 45-year-old man seeking therapy from Dr. Borg, a clinical psychologist. Every time Joseph eats, he must tap his fork on the side of his plate five times before he takes a bite. As another example, when he gets undressed each evening, Joseph must place his shoes exactly one inch apart and precisely parallel to the wall near his bed. His family has tried to be patient, but on numerous occasions his behavior has gotten in the way of their lives, such as the time that he felt compelled to insert the key into the lock of their home “just right,” which required dozens of attempts and a delay of about 10 minutes while his family waited in the rain.

- a) Joseph is not behaving normally and has a disorder. How do you define a psychological disorder? (6 marks)
- b) What type of disorder is Joseph suffering from? Explain the main features of this disorder. (2, 6 marks)
- c) What is the DSM? Why are some psychologists critical of diagnostic labels? (4, 6 marks)
- d) Why can it be difficult sometimes to identify between normal and abnormal behaviour? (6 marks)

Question 5:

- a) How does Social Identity Theory explain football violence? (8 marks)
- b) An incident that shocked the football community happened during a World Cup match this year when a player was caught on camera biting an opponent. Use two theories of aggression to explain the reason behind such behaviour. (12 marks)
- c) The footballer was fined and banned from playing in the World Cup. Discuss ways of how aggression can be reduced. (10 marks)

Question 6:

- a) Name and describe Erik Erikson’s stages of development. (12 marks)
- b) Think of an experience you had or observed in others and explain it using Erikson’s theory of development. (8 marks)
- c) In an observational study of children’s behavior, it was seen that girls and boys chose to play with different toys. Explain the environmental causes that influence the different behavior of boys and girls. (10 marks)