

MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD  
UNIVERSITY OF MALTA, MSIDA  
MATRICULATION EXAMINATION  
INTERMEDIATE LEVEL  
SEPTEMBER 2016

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<b>SUBJECT:</b>	PSYCHOLOGY
<b>DATE:</b>	31st August 2016
<b>TIME:</b>	4:00 p.m. to 7:05 p.m.

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**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. It is reported that the younger generation has become more aware about environmental issues. A researcher would like to find out if this is true for adolescents aged 16 years. S/he wants to find out whether or not this age group in Malta has awareness about issues such as global warming. For each of the steps below, describe in detail the decisions the researcher must make in order to ensure sound research. The answer should include the reasons behind the choices made:
- i. The methodological approach;
  - ii. The data collection tool;
  - iii. The sampling technique. **(15 marks)**
- b. Briefly mention what ethical considerations must be taken when doing research. **(5 marks)**

**Question 2**

- a. In one of Mother Teresa's prayers, she says: "If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives..." Comment on this quote in view of psychological literature about pro-social behaviour and altruism. **(10 marks)**
- b. A key feature of parenting is to raise children who can function healthily in the wider community. To do this, parents need to nurture pro-social behaviour and altruism in their children. Explain how parents can encourage this. **(10 marks)**

**Question 3**

According to the Behaviourist approach, almost every action we take is the result of past learning. Describe in detail **two** ways how learning happens. In your answer, make reference to the relevant theories and provide examples. **(20 marks)**

**Section B (60 marks)**

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

**Question 4**

Like many other adolescents, Alex is feeling misunderstood as he struggles to leave behind his childhood and become an adult. He feels a growing detachment from his parents who keep pointing out his rebellious behaviour and poor performance at school. In a clear sign of sibling rivalry, disagreements with his older brother often escalate into scuffles. The teachers who in the past considered Alex in high esteem commented on the college annual report: “showing disobedience and disrespect. Needs to study more”. Sometimes deep down Alex, who cannot understand or control this behaviour, feels he is a cheat by letting down many people around him. Other times, he feels adults are too demanding and insensitive to him. These feelings have fuelled in Alex confusing negative attitudes and thoughts that sometimes are directed at others and sometimes towards himself.

The only solace he finds is when he is in the company of his college peers. Among them he feels accepted as he is and shares common interests with them. With their encouragement, he became a member of a voluntary student association that organises parties, weekend trips, work experiences abroad and many other activities. Soon enough he became so popular that he got elected vice-president of this 200-member association. His friends began to see him as a leader. Some of his peers followed him, a few opposed him but through it all Alex managed to make the group flourish. Recently he also started a relationship with the fund raising officer of the association whom he fell in love with. As a result, Alex is spending more and more time away from home. His parents feel him pulling away from them but he seems happier and more at peace.

- a. Give a psychological explanation for what is happening to Alex by applying Erik Erikson’s theory of psycho-social development to explain in detail Alex’s experience at this stage of his life. **(10 marks)**
- b. If you had the opportunity to spend some time as an observer in this student association, what group processes would you look out for to understand the way this group operates? **(10 marks)**
- c. Choose a group you are a member of and describe one personal experience involving the group from a psychological point of view. **(10 marks)**

**Question 5**

- a. Today there is greater awareness about mental health issues in society and often terms like “depression”, “obsession”, “phobia” and “anxiety” are being used loosely in everyday conversations. Describe and evaluate the ways clinicians assess and diagnose mental health disorders. **(10 marks)**
- b. Define the **two** mood disorders. Describe in detail the biological perspective and the socio-cognitive perspective that try to explain mood disorders. Give examples to illustrate each of the two perspectives. **(20 marks)**

**Question 6**

- a. Outline the characteristics of Androgyny and discuss the advantages of such characteristics. **(10 marks)**
- b. Give a detailed explanation of **four** theories of gender development. **(20 marks)**