

MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD  
UNIVERSITY OF MALTA, MSIDA  
MATRICULATION EXAMINATION  
INTERMEDIATE LEVEL  
SEPTEMBER 2017

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<b>SUBJECT:</b>	PSYCHOLOGY
<b>DATE:</b>	1st September 2017
<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

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

- 1a. You are intrigued by the topic of religion and its effect on the younger generations. You want to know whether, in general, young people care about religion and if so how they practice it. From a research point of view, how would you go about discovering this? You are expected to name, define and explain the reasons for your choice of:
- i. The methodological approach; (5)
  - ii. The sample; (5)
  - iii. The data collection tool. (5)
- b. Identify the main tasks of the interviewer in a focused group (group interview) by explaining the challenges s/he encounters when doing this kind of research. (5)
- (Total: 20 marks)**
2. The development of 'Psychology' as a scientific discipline has been characterised by a number of schools of thought originating in reaction to others. Some historians categorise these under two distinct periods - pre-1920s and post-1920s. Name, define and describe **TWO** schools of thought in psychology, and compare and contrast these schools.
- (Total: 20 marks)**
3. Social influence is described in many ways and all appear to be guided by irrationality. Choose **TWO** ways of how social influence manifests itself and for each give a definition and a detailed experiment that explains the type of social influence.
- (Total: 20 marks)**

*Please turn the page.*

## SECTION B

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

4. Read the following case study and answer the following questions:

Anna is a 65 year old woman. She is married and has two adult boys who have left home in recent years. She presents herself in therapy looking exhausted, following an incident some weeks ago when she startled some burglars in her home. Her eyes are blood shot, her skin is pale and she looks frail. She explains that she has not slept in weeks and is eating very little; mostly coffee to keep her going. She goes on to describe that her husband is 'in a world of his own', and that she feels very misunderstood by her family and friends. She explained how the house was upside down after the burglary. She related how they ran off with her jewellery, including some possessions that her children had received for their First Holy Communion. She keeps repeating how she has 'lost everything'. Anna cries and shakes inconsolably. She wants to know that she is not going crazy. She explains that she finds it difficult to leave the house now, but also that she does not feel safe at home. She frequently has bad dreams that something bad happens to her children and wakes up in a sweat. Her husband feels she is making too much of a fuss and thinks she needs to get on with her life.

- a. If you were Anna's psychologist, what psychological disorder would you suggest she is suffering from, if any? List the symptoms you feel are relevant and any other significant information about this disorder. (10)
- b. How does the DSM help us to distinguish between normal behaviour and disorders? (5)
- c. Name and describe **TWO** perspectives that can help us understand psychological disorders. (10)
- d. Clearly Anna has a number of stressors in her life which are possibly also attributed to her current state of psychological discomfort. What can she do to reduce her stress levels? (5)

**(Total: 30 marks)**

5. Last year the world suffered the loss of a great rock star; David Bowie. He was known as Ziggy Stardust and a glam rock pioneer. Bowie, with his throaty voice, high cheekbones, slender frame, and swaggering hips, exemplified a meeting of the sexual ideals of both male and female musicians. When he appeared on the BBC's *Top of the Pops* in 1972 in a clingy bodysuit, a full face of makeup, and bright red hair, publically displaying physical affection towards one of his band members, he made a lasting impression.

- a. What term is used to describe such people who integrate both their masculine and feminine traits into their persona? Who developed this theory? (2)
- b. Explain this theory and argue whether you think this phenomenon is a healthy or unhealthy development in one's personality, mentioning the advantages and disadvantages of being so. (8)
- c. Name and give a detailed explanation of any **TWO** theories of gender development and highlight the differences between the two. (20)

**(Total: 30 marks)**

- 6a. Write down **THREE** predominant characteristics (traits) of your personality at this time in your life. Do you think you inherited these traits or did you learn them in your childhood? Discuss your personality traits by applying the nature/nurture debate and explain what effect these traits have on your life and others around you. (10)
- b. There have been many proposed theories put forward to describe human development across the life span. Name **ONE** theory and give a detailed description for the theory. (10)
- c. Use the theory of development you mentioned in (b) to describe:
- i. the most significant issues at the stage of development that you are at. (5)
  - ii. which life stage do you think will be most challenging for you in the years to come and why. (5)

**(Total: 30 marks)**