



SUBJECT: **Psychology**
DATE: 4th September 2023
TIME: 4:00 p.m. to 7:05 p.m.

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.

1. Many countries are currently dealing with increased costs of living and a psychologist is interested in studying the impact that this is having on the quality of life.
 - a. Describe the type of study the psychologist should use if they are interested in studying in-depth how people with low income are experiencing their struggles with the cost of living and how it is affecting their quality of life. (10)
 - b. What approach would you suggest if instead they are interested in investigating the percentage of Maltese people struggling psychologically because of the rising cost of living. Describe:
 - (i) The data collecting tool you would choose, why you would choose it, and specify how you would use it; (5)
 - (ii) The sampling strategy you would use to select your participants, and why would you use this method to select your participants. (5)

(Total: 20 marks)

2. Behaviourism and the Psychoanalytic approach are two important schools of thought that shaped the field of psychology. Explain the basic principles of **each** of these two approaches and identify their main contributions to the field of psychology. (20)

(Total: 20 marks)

3. Psychology has many applications to everyday life.
 - a. What is psychology? Why is it considered a science? (4)
 - b. Clinical psychology is one specialisation of psychology. Mention **TWO** other specialisations and describe the type of work that psychologists in those specialisations do. (6)
 - c. Explain how the humanistic approach describes human personality. (10)

(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:

Roald Dahl is a popular British author of children's books. Earlier this year, it was reported that the publishers engaged sensitivity readers to rewrite some of his stories, because some of the language he used is now considered to be offensive. Sensitivity readers are individuals hired by publishers to read books or stories before they are published. They check for problems with how different groups of people are referred to, to ensure they are represented fairly and respectfully. In these re-writes, some of the ways which Roald Dahl originally used to describe the characters' weight, mental health, violence, gender, and race were changed. For example, Augustus Gloop in 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' originally described as 'enormously fat', is now described as 'enormous'. In the same book, the Oompa Loompas who were described in gender-specific language as 'small men' are now gender-neutral 'small people.' In 'The Witches,' the paragraph that describes the witches who are bald and wear wigs, now ends with the line: "There are plenty of other reasons why women might wear wigs and there is certainly nothing wrong with that." In the book 'Matilda', Miss Trunchbull's face was originally described as a "great horsey face" and in the re-writes it was referred to as simply her 'face'. These re-writes were received with mixed reactions. While some welcomed them, others criticised them heavily saying this was a form of censorship. The publishers finally decided to publish both the classic and the revised versions of the books so that the original versions would remain in print.

(Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2023/feb/18/roald-dahl-books-rewritten-to-remove-language-deemed-offensive> & <https://www.wsj.com/story/5-changes-made-to-roald-dahls-books-to-make-them-more-inclusive-dc846ea1>)

- a. How does the removal of gender-specific language and the introduction of gender-neutral terms in Roald Dahl's books contribute to inclusivity in relation to gender? (8)
- b. The stories we read can easily have an impact on us. With reference to the psycho-social life tasks of adolescence, explain what could be the developmental impact on the body image of an adolescent who has weight issues, when they read about someone being described as 'fat'. (8)
- c. Using the communication model, explain the difference between books and social media as communication channels? Which one of them do you think could have more impact on individuals and why? (8)
- d. With reference to Erikson's theory of psycho-social development reflect on how learning psychology has impacted the way you understand yourself. (6)

(Total: 30 marks)

5. There is a lot of research investigating the relationship between aggression and the media.

- a. Define aggression, and explain how media can contribute to short term increases in children's aggression. (10)
- b. Explain how the biological approach describes the development of aggression. (10)
- c. In the coercive cycle, parents and children learn that aggression may be the way to achieve what they want. Describe the coercive cycle and why this pattern should be broken to reduce aggression. (10)

(Total: 30 marks)

6. Karl has a fear of being in closed spaces. One of the manifestations of Karl's claustrophobia is that they avoid going into elevators. At times, this is easy to manage, but in other circumstances, Karl's phobia can be quite debilitating. Phobias are classified as anxiety disorders.

a. What are anxiety disorders? (10)

b. With reference to contemporary perspectives explain our understanding of anxiety disorders. (10)

c. Many types of phobias exist however the symptoms are similar. Describe **FIVE** signs and symptoms of phobias. (10)

(Total: 30 marks)