

MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD
UNIVERSITY OF MALTA, MSIDA
MATRICULATION EXAMINATION
INTERMEDIATE LEVEL
SEPTEMBER 2015

SUBJECT:	PSYCHOLOGY
DATE:	5th September 2015
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.

Question 1

- a) Briefly define the following methods of research:
- i. Experiments
 - ii. Observations
 - iii. Interviews
- (6 marks)
- b) You have been asked to carry out research to find out more about what people between 50 and 60 years of age think about retirement homes. How would you carry out the research? Give details about the data collection tool and the sampling technique you would use. Give reasons for your choices.
- (14 marks)

Question 2

Many psychologists speak about the importance of attachment in child development. For example Bowlby (1951) said, "Mother love in infancy and childhood is as important for mental health as are vitamins and proteins for physical health". Discuss using theories about attachment and deprivation.

(20 marks)

Question 3

It has been observed that the origins of schools of thought are often a social and intellectual reaction to other schools of thought. The birth of Behaviorism is such an example. Many claim it was a reaction to Freud's psychoanalytic theory. Highlight the main differences between the two schools of thought and give examples of the different concepts they put forward.

(20 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

John is a 16 year old adolescent. He is involved in many voluntary groups like SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals). John does a lot of voluntary work at the Ursuline Creche (with babies and small children in care) and is also a member of an organization that raises money for patients suffering from kidney failure. This year this organization decided to cycle from the Lake District to Lugano. John is very unhappy because he cannot take part in this event. He is very scared of flying and cannot bring himself to make this journey to the Lake District with the group.

- a) What psychological explanations can you give for John's wish to help others? (4 marks)
- b) What is John likely to be suffering from? Give a definition of the possible condition. (6 marks)
- c) Make reference to two theories of psychology that could explain John's fear of flying and briefly describe them. (12 marks)
- d) Identify any of your own fears and give a possible explanation to what led to this fear. (8 marks)

Question 5

- a) In the study of psychological disorders, some psychologists support a biological perspective and often describe someone with a disorder as: "s/he was born like that". What are the arguments for and against this perception? Quote research to support your arguments. What position do the various approaches to psychology take on this issue? Give examples to support your statements. (22 marks)
- b) Horrible crimes have often been committed by persons who have an anti-social personality disorder. Outline the main characteristics of such a personality disorder and give examples. (8 marks)

Question 6

- a) Stress elicits so many physical and emotional symptoms that it has often been defined as "a Silent Killer". Describe this in the light of research on:
 - i. Stressful Life Events
 - ii. Personality
 - iii. Environmental Stressors (including workplace stressors) (21 marks)
- b) Briefly discuss methods for reducing stress. (9 marks)