

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

SUBJECT:	PSYCHOLOGY
DATE:	19 th May 2017
TIME:	9:00 a.m. to 12:05 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.

- 1a. Distinguish between quantitative and qualitative methodologies. In your answer, you are expected to define, and give details of the main characteristics of each. (14)
- b. You have been asked to carry out observational research on the behaviour of a child with ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) who is in Year 3 in a primary school classroom. As a researcher, what will you be looking out for and how will you record the data? (6)
- (Total: 20 marks)**

- 2a. Name the **TWO** main sub systems of the nervous system and describe the main functions of each. (10)
- b. Neuroscientists have structured the brain into three main regions. Give an overview of **any TWO** of these regions. (10)
- (Total: 20 marks)**

- 3a. The trait approach to personality is one of the major theoretical areas in the study of personality. What are the main differences between a trait approach to personality and Freud's personality theory? (8)
- b. Give a detailed outline of **TWO** trait theories of personality that you have studied. (12)
- (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:

Alan was only a baby when civil war broke out in his city. Within days, what used to be his life, stood before him in a pile of rubble and ashes. The family became hungry, cold and afraid. Alan's mother continued to breast feed her infant, extending her milk also to his siblings who were slightly older. She knew however that the milk would not last long if she herself was malnourished. Alan's parents decided to flee the country as soon as they could, in a desperate attempt to keep Alan and his siblings safe from harm. The journey to their destination, on a small overcrowded dinghy, was a traumatic and treacherous one, which ended in tragedy. The boat capsized resulting in a number of fatalities; Alan's father being amongst them. His mother and siblings were rescued out of the sea by patrol boats of a neighbouring country, and Alan was also rescued by another man in the boat who held him above water level for hours on end. Alan was then taken in by a local family who temporarily fostered him since he was listed as an unaccompanied minor. When Alan was six years old, his mother and siblings were tracked down and Alan was finally reunited with them. They were granted refugee status and continued to live safely in this new country, where they thrived and prospered. With his university counsellor, Alan (now aged 20) describes his troubles with friends and girlfriends. He explains that his friendships and relationships don't seem to last very long and that he is concerned about this pattern.

- a. Briefly explain using Maslow's hierarchy of needs, how Alan finally came to thrive and prosper, and why his psychological development would have been compromised had he stayed in his own country. (4)
- b. What stage of Erik Erikson's Psychosocial Stages is Alan at when he visits the university counsellor? Describe the importance, for young adults, of successfully working through this life stage. (6)
- c. If you were the counsellor, describe the behaviour you may expect to be observing in Alan that would have led to the referral to the university counselling service. Suggest what might be the reason for this behaviour you are observing, linking with any theories you may feel are relevant. (12)
- d. Mention a significant life experience which has shaped you into the person you are today, making reference to **ONE** psychological theory that comes to mind. (8)

(Total: 30 marks)

5. November 29, 2016

Dear President,

We are writing to express our grave concern regarding the mental stability of our President-Elect. Professional standards do not permit us to venture a diagnosis for a public figure whom we have not evaluated personally. Nevertheless, his widely reported symptoms of mental instability — including grandiosity, impulsivity, hypersensitivity to slights or criticism, and an apparent inability to distinguish between fantasy and reality — lead us to question his fitness for the immense responsibilities of the office. We strongly recommend that, in preparation for assuming these responsibilities, he receive a full medical and neuropsychiatric evaluation by an impartial team of investigators.

Sincerely,

Judith Herman, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry
Harvard Medical School

Nanette Gartrell, M.D.
Assistant Professor of
Psychiatry, Harvard
Medical School (1983-87)

Dee Moscbaher M.D. Ph.d
Assistant Clinical Professor
University of California, San
Francisco (2005-2013)

(Excerpt from the Huffington Post December 2016)

- a. Explain what criteria of mental disorders these authors are using to make them gravely concerned about the mental stability of the President-Elect. (6)
- b. The American Psychological Association defines a number of psychological disorders, classifying them into different groups, some of which include Schizophrenia Spectrum and Other Psychotic Disorders; Depressive Disorders; Bipolar and Related Disorders; Anxiety Disorders; and Obsessive-Compulsive and Related Disorders. Choose **any TWO** of these categories, giving a definition and diagnostic criteria of **ONE** of the main disorders which fall within each category, also demonstrating how such criteria may manifest in an individual's everyday life and what effect such behaviour can have on family and/or friends. (12+12)

(Total: 30 marks)

6. It may be that watching violent programmes causes aggressive behaviour. Alternatively, naturally aggressive children may choose to watch more violent programmes than non-aggressive children. Finally, there may be some truth in both of these interpretations.

(Eysenck, Pg. 87, 2013)

- a. How do the nature and nurture perspectives explain aggressive behaviours? How do they combine together? (8)
- b. What does research tell us about the nature of aggressive behaviour in children? Give details of **TWO** experiments to support your argument. (10)
- c. People experience hassles and life events which can cause varied levels of stress.
 - i. What is stress? (3)
 - ii. Define the difference between the terms 'hassle' and 'life events'. (3)
 - iii. List some examples of what typically causes stress in one's life cycle. (3)
 - iv. What can happen if the signs and symptoms of stress are ignored? (3)

(Total: 30 marks)