



**L-Università
ta' Malta**

MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE
EXAMINATIONS BOARD

**INTERMEDIATE MATRICULATION LEVEL
2026 FIRST SESSION**

SUBJECT: **Psychology**
DATE: 13th May 2026
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. You have been asked to find out what students think about banning mobile phones for young people under 13.
 - a. Describe the main stages of the research process. (8)
 - b. There are different ways of collecting data in psychological research. Discuss which three methods can be used in collecting data to investigate this research question. (12)

(Total: 20 marks)

2. Psychologists argue that there are various forms of memory. They also say that learning and memory involve different stages.
 - a. Discuss what are the stages involved in learning and memory. (10)
 - b. Explain what is the multistore model of memory. (10)

(Total: 20 marks)

3. Pavlov's experiment with dogs is one of the most important experiments in Behaviourism. This experiment contributes greatly to fundamental principles in learning.
 - a. Explain the principles of classical conditioning, with reference to Pavlov's experiment. (14)
 - b. Discuss the strengths and limitations of the behavioural approach to learning. (6)

(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:

Evan had no friends, at least not the kind with whom he went out or to whom he sent messages late at night. He had just moved to a new country and was very stressed. He had no one with whom he could communicate his thoughts, his feelings. He worked from home and met no one, sometimes for a whole week. His days passed quietly, measured by work, meals eaten alone, and the hum of the city outside his window. When the silence grew too loud, he opened his laptop and typed into a small chat window.

At first, it felt strange talking to a chatbot instead of a person. But the words came easily. Evan wrote about his day, the awkward moments at work, the thoughts he never said out loud. The chatbot answered patiently, never interrupting, never looking away. It asked gentle questions and remembered the little things: his love for old films, his fear of being invisible. Some nights, Evan shared heavier thoughts—loneliness, regret, the quiet worry that life was passing him by. The chatbot didn't judge or rush him. It simply listened, offering perspective, reminding him that his feelings mattered.

- a. Why was it easy for Evan to communicate with a chatbot? (6)
- b. Explain the communication model and apply it to the communication between Evan and the chatbot. (8)
- c. What is empathy? Was the chatbot being empathic? Why? (8)
- d. Were Evan's needs being met? Use Maslow's theory to explain your answer. (8)

(Total: 30 marks)

5. The nature versus nurture debate concerns whether behaviour is determined by genetic factors (nature) or environmental influences (nurture).
- a. Discuss the nature versus nurture debate and explain how Psychoanalysis, Behaviourism and Humanism position themselves within this debate. (15)
 - b. Using the nature–nurture debate, discuss why some people are more aggressive than others. (10)
 - c. Gender roles are often learnt. Use Social learning theory to explain how this happens. (5)

(Total: 30 marks)

6. Stress is harmful, and it is important to be aware of possible causes of stress.
- a. Define stress and explain how environment and life events can cause stress. (10)
 - b. Friedman and Rosenman (1959) argued Type A and Type B personalities are affected differently by stress. Describe how persons with different personality traits and behavioural patterns are affected by stress. (10)
 - c. Describe the relationship between stress and illness. (10)

(Total: 30 marks)