



**L-Università  
ta' Malta**

**MATSEC  
Examinations Board**



## **Specimen Papers**

**IM 35 Psychology Specimen Paper 2027**

INTERMEDIATE MATRICULATION LEVEL  
SPECIMEN PAPERSUBJECT: **Psychology**

DATE: XXX

TIME: 3 Hours

This paper contains **THREE** sections. Follow the instructions below.

**SECTION A**

Answer **ALL** questions from this section. This section carries 30 marks.

**SECTION B**

Answer **ALL** questions from this section. This section carries 30 marks.

**SECTION C**

Answer any **TWO** questions from this section. This section carries 40 marks.

**SECTION A**

**Answer ALL questions. This section carries 30 marks.**

1. List **TWO** major paradigms in psychology. (2)
2. At work, Paul's boss was in a foul mood; he kept yelling at Paul for no particular reason. When Paul went home rather than calming down, he started yelling at his partner. Identify the defence mechanism that Paul is using in this given situation. (1)
3. Describe the concept of generalisation as discussed in classical conditioning. (2)
4. Give **ONE** example of negative reinforcement. (2)
5. Describe the ideal self in the humanistic approach. (2)
6. Name the **FOUR** lobes of the cerebral cortex. (2)
7. Name the stages of Martin L. Hoffman's theory of empathy development. (2)
8. After studying very hard for her Advanced and Intermediate exams, Jane an 18-year-old student, fails to get the required qualifications to continue with her studies at tertiary level. She feels stuck and needs to rethink her future. Identify Jane's crisis in this situation and write your answer on the booklet provided.
  - a. Generativity vs Stagnation.
  - b. Industry vs Inferiority.
  - c. Initiative vs guilt.
  - d. Identity vs Role Confusion. (1)
9. Mention the **FOUR** types of noise in the Shannon-Weaver model of communication. (4)
10. Explain the transactional model of stress and give **ONE** example. (3)
11. Define perception. (2)
12. List an advantage of Sandra L. Bem's androgyny model. (2)

13. During a school meeting, Jennifer was informed that her son Jacob was failing to attain the required literacy skills and recommended to Jennifer to take him to a psychologist. Name the appropriate type of psychologist in this situation. (1)

14. List **TWO** symptoms of panic disorder. (2)

15. Mention **ONE** advantage and **ONE** disadvantage of a quantitative methodology. (2)

**(Total: 30 marks)**

## **SECTION B**

**Answer ALL the questions at the end of this case study. This section carries 30 marks.**

John is a 16-year-old teenager, very keen on living a healthy lifestyle. He has a strong emotional bond with his parents. Throughout his childhood, his parents consistently provided love, support, and a sense of security. John feels comfortable discussing his feelings, fears, and dreams with them. This communication fostered a strong sense of self-esteem, trust in others, and the ability to form healthy relationships. John's ability to explore the world and develop autonomy has been positively influenced by his family background.

John is an active participant in a social group who share common interests and values. He adapts his behaviour and values to align with his peer group while maintaining his individuality. This adaptation to group norms allows John to feel a sense of belonging and connection with his friends while still expressing his unique personality. He understands the importance of peer acceptance and social integration during adolescence, but he remains authentic to his own values.

He is very actively engaged in exploring his identity, values, and future aspirations. His parents and friends allow him to confidently navigate this complex stage of his life. He feels supported in his quest for self-discovery.

John demonstrates effective coping mechanisms for managing stress. He engages in regular physical exercise, which helps reduce anxiety and improve mood. He also maintains a strong support network of friends who provide emotional support during challenging times. Moreover, he maintains open communication with his parents and seeks their guidance when facing significant stressors. This combination of physical activity, social support, and family communication helps John effectively cope with the typical stressors of adolescence.

- From the case study above, identify the type of attachment John demonstrates according to Mary D. Ainsworth and Sylvia Bell. (1)
- Explain the type of attachment identified in (1.) above by making reference to the case study. (8)
- Explain normative social influence by making reference to the case study. (4)
- With reference to John's case study:
  - distinguish between social network and perceived social support. (6)
  - evaluate the effectiveness of either social network **or** perceived social support as presented in this case study. (4)
- Using the case study above, identify the crisis experienced by John in terms of Erik Erikson's psychosocial development theory. (1)
- With reference to the stage/s of Erik Erikson's psychosocial development theory:
  - explain John's psychosocial developmental stage. (4)
  - mention the virtue associated with this crisis. (2)

**(Total: 30 marks)**

**SECTION C**

**Answer any TWO questions from this section. Each question carries 20 marks.**

1.

- a. Describe Jean Piaget's stages of cognitive development. (8)
- b. Evaluate Jean Piaget's theory of cognitive development. (12)

2.

- a. Define psychological disorders. (3)
- b. List **THREE** symptoms of Generalised Anxiety Disorder (GAD) according to the DSM. (3)
- c. The biopsychosocial model suggests that the interaction of many factors lead to the development of psychological disorders. Compare and contrast the medical model with the biopsychosocial model. (14)

3. Free will versus determinism is one of the fundamental debates in psychology.

- a. Describe free will and determinism. (4)
- b. Discuss how **TWO** schools of thought are located on the free will versus determinism debate. (16)

4. B.F. Skinner suggested that learning is an active process whereby humans and animals operate on their environment.

- a. Evaluate **TWO** contributions and **TWO** criticisms of operant conditioning. (8)
- b. Compare and contrast behaviourism with psychoanalytic approach. (12)

**(Total: 40 marks)**