

## **PSYCHOLOGY**

**Time Allowed – 1.5 hours**

### **Instructions for Students:**

**SECTION A (40%): You must answer all FOUR (4) questions**

**SECTION B (60%): You must answer ONE (1) question from a choice of six**

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### **SECTION A (40%)**

**Read the following research outline, and answer all FOUR (4) questions below.**

A researcher wishes to investigate whether university students prefer learning about statistics and research methods in one of two ways. The first involves a combination of lectures and small-group practical classes, led by an experienced lecturer in research methods and statistics. The second involves working independently through an especially designed on-line course, which they can manage and go through at their own pace, but without receiving lecturer support other than that given on-line in text and video format. To do this, the researcher administers a questionnaire to 1000 first-year university students, who are just starting their degree course, asking about their preferences.

1. Identify any problems with the data gathering method used here.
2. How might the design be improved?
3. Identify a positive aspect of the design implemented.
4. What are the ethical considerations involved?

## **SECTION B (60%)**

**Answer ONE (1) question from the choice of six below.**

1. How do you think Psychology might help us better address mental health issues in our society?
2. When conducting research with vulnerable populations, such as children and/or those with a disability, there are additional ethical considerations that need to be taken into account. These have to do with ensuring that participants are able to give 'informed consent' to participation. How would you go about obtaining this if you were conducting research with a group of children aged between 3 and 6 years, within a nursery/school context?
3. Surveys have revealed that the majority of people are unhappy to some extent with their bodies. Body dissatisfaction has been associated with a number of unhealthy behaviours, emotions, and cognitions. Understanding the reasons for, and the consequences of, high levels of body dissatisfaction can help psychologists identify ways to help people accept their bodies and improve their wellbeing. Identify reasons why people experience body dissatisfaction, the consequences that result and strategies psychologists can use to help individuals.
4. As human beings, we are all different both physically and psychologically. In your view, how do each of us differ psychologically, and why do we have these differences?
5. When you have an idea, do you have the idea first and then put it into words to communicate it, or do you draw on concepts communicated in your culture first to make the idea in the first place?
6. Historically, psychological research focused on negative aspects and problems people faced such as depression, anxiety, phobias, and more. In recent years, there is growing research in positive psychology, looking at positive emotions such as happiness, resiliency, empathy, love and humour. How can research in positive psychology help people feel and live better? What do you think might be the insights learned from research in positive psychology and positive emotions?