



# UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG

## JUNE 2018 EXAMINATION

**COURSE:** BA PSYCHOLOGY

**TIME:** 180 MINS

**QUESTION PAPER:** PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT (HONS)

**MARKS:** 120

**SUBJECT CODE/S:** PSY8X07

**EXAMINERS:**  
1. Dr C van Zyl  
2. Ms W Human

**EXTERNAL EXAMINER:** Dr JK Moodley  
(UNISA)

**(THIS PAPER CONSISTS OF 4 PAGES)**

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1. ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS.
  2. ANSWER **SECTION A** AND **SECTION B** IN **SEPARATE ANSWER BOOKS**
  3. ROUND ALL CALCULATIONS TO TWO DECIMAL PLACES AT ALL LEVELS OF CALCULATION.
  4. PLAN YOUR TIME CAREFULLY
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**HAND IN THIS QUESTION PAPER, ALONG WITH YOUR ANSWER SHEET.**

<b>NAME + SURNAME:</b>	
<b>STUDENT NUMBER:</b>	
<b>VENUE:</b>	
<b>YOUR TEL NO:</b>	

**COURSE:** B A PSYCHOLOGY

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**SECTION A**

**QUESTION 1**

A psychologist assesses two children experiencing the same difficulties. Both children are in Grade 1 and experiencing difficulty in all academic areas. Their teachers have complained that both children find it difficult to remain focused for extended periods of time and are disruptive in the classroom. They often interrupt and struggle to wait their turn. Both display very immature social behaviour, are impulsive and often require adult support to resolve minor conflicts with peers in the same grade. Both children have repeated Grade R, but still do not know all the letters of the alphabet. The psychologist has diagnosed Attention Deficit Disorder along with visual-perceptual difficulties for both children. However, the children come from very different social and socio-economic backgrounds. The first child is from an affluent family where both parents have master's degrees. They are fluent in two languages, including English. They are well-travelled and live in the city. The second child lives in the township with his mother and grandmother. The mother has a Grade 10 and works as a cleaner and tea lady at a company. His grandmother is the primary caretaker during the day. English is a second language in this family.

1.1 Suggest what information you might include in your feedback and how you would go about conveying the results in each instance, taking into consideration the different backgrounds of each client. (15)

1.2 Briefly describe the four different forms in which the interpretation of test results may occur as well as compare and contrast the mechanical and non-mechanical methods of interpretation. (15)

1.3 Describe the purpose of a psychological report and provide a broad outline of what should be included in a report in order to meet its purpose. (10)

1.4 Outline some critical aspects related to the use of psychological measures in educational contexts. (10)

**QUESTION 2**

2.1 Discuss Career Counselling in a changing environment by referring to traditional and emerging approaches (15)

**QUESTION 3**

Jake is a clinical psychologist who has been practicing for over 15 years. About four years ago he began to specialize in trauma counseling and specifically Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in the emergency medical care and policing professions. A former client of Jake's, a policeman, is currently on trial for the alleged murder of his wife, believing her to be an intruder one night in their family home. Jake treated the man for PTSD and major depression, and ended the therapeutic relationship three months ago after significant therapeutic gains were made. The defense's case rests on PTSD as a mitigating factor in the alleged murder of the accused's wife and the attorneys are placing pressure on Jake to act as an expert witness to strengthen their case. In particular, the attorneys are pressurising Jake to commit to commenting on the ultimate issue at stake, and declare the accused 'not guilty' as a result of his mental state.

3.1 Discuss psycho-legal and forensic assessment by defining the terms, describing what an expert witness is, and outlining good assessment practices in a psycho-legal context.

(15)

3.2 Comment on the ethical dilemmas presented and whether or not Jake should accept the request to act as an expert witness. Motivate your answer.

(6)

3.3 Explain informed consent and its purpose.

(10)

**SECTION B**

**QUESTION 4**

4.1 Bongani obtained the following scores on two different psychological tests used to evaluate her suitability to work in a nuclear power plant that has extremely high safety standards:

Psychological measure	Score
Emotional Stability	T-score = 69
Risk-Taking	Stanine = 7
Rule-Defiance	Sten = 4

For the purpose of compiling a report based on Bongani's results, all scores have to be converted to standardised IQ scores. Thus, part of your job is to convert these scores to standardised IQ scores.

(12)

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4.2 The psychological tests above are reported to have the following Cronbach alpha reliabilities: Emotional Stability ( $\alpha = .85$ ); Risk-Taking ( $\alpha = .73$ ); Rule-Defiance ( $\alpha = .93$ ); Calculate the standard error of measurement for the three IQ scores you computed above, provide a 95% confidence interval, and provide an appropriate interpretation of each IQ score.

(12)

TOTAL.....[120]

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