

NATURAL SCIENCES TRIPOS Part IB
NATURAL SCIENCES TRIPOS Part II (General)
NATURAL SCIENCES TRIPOS Preliminary Examination for PartII Psychology

Tuesday 3 June 2008 1.30 to 4.30

EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY II

Respond to both parts of each section as indicated.

Each section carries equal marks.

Within each section, each short account carries one-sixth of the marks available and the essay carries two-thirds of the marks available. Candidates are advised to allocate their time to each question accordingly (approximately 10 minutes per short account and 40 minutes per essay).

Answers from each section must be tied up in a separate bundle, with the letter of the section written on each cover sheet.

*Write your number **not** your name on the cover sheet for each section.*

STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS

Loose script paper

Cover sheets

**You may not start to read the questions
printed on the subsequent pages of this
question paper until instructed that you may
do so by the Invigilator.**

SECTION A

1. *Give a short account of TWO of the following:*
 - (a) Metacontrast
 - (b) Mach bands
 - (c) Semantic priming
 - (d) Role of stress in word comprehension

2. *Write an essay on ONE of the following:*
 - (a) What can the effects of adaptation tell us about mechanisms of colour and motion perception?
 - (b) Do our memories tell us “the whole truth and nothing but the truth”? Discuss from the perspective of laboratory studies of memory.

SECTION B

3. *Give a short account of TWO of the following:*
 - (a) The violence inhibition mechanism
 - (b) Techniques to attain compliance
 - (c) Kelly’s covariation model
 - (d) The actor-observer effect

4. *Write an essay on ONE of the following:*
 - (a) Why do people conform?
 - (b) What could a politician learn from social psychology to win an election? Justify your answer.

SECTION C

5. *Give a short account of TWO of the following:*
 - (a) The representativeness heuristic
 - (b) Hallucinations
 - (c) Little Albert and phobias
 - (d) Culture-fair IQ tests

TURN OVER

6. *Write an essay on ONE of the following:*
- (a) To what extent can the weak central coherence and executive dysfunction theories account for the characteristics of autism?
 - (b) Do the sex differences in the results of IQ tests suggest that men are more clever than women?

END OF PAPER