



Queen Margaret University
EDINBURGH

SCHOOL OF ARTS, SOCIAL SCIENCES AND MANAGEMENT

DIVISION OF PSYCHOLOGY & SOCIOLOGY

LEVEL 2 DIET 1

MODULE CODE: X3030/X3035

**MODULE TITLE: Critical, Historical and Conceptual
Issues in Psychology**

<u>DATE: 27/07/2016</u>	<u>TIME: 2.00PM</u>
<u>WRITING TIME: 2 hours</u>	<u>READING TIME: 5 minutes</u>

INSTRUCTIONS:

Students should attempt TWO questions. Answers should be completed in separate booklets.

PAPER SETTER: Stuart Wilson

Answer TWO questions only:

1. What contribution can psychology make to philosophy? Provide a critical discussion focussing on how psychologists have tackled issues such as consciousness, free-will and the nature of the “mind”
2. In your opinion, has the widespread adoption of *null hypothesis significance testing* in psychology been a success? Answer with reference to current issues surrounding replicability and the best practice for drawing conclusions from data.
3. Hermann Ebbinghaus once famously stated that “*psychology has a long history but a short past*”. What did he mean by this and how much progress could be said to have been made in understanding “the mind” since Psychology was first recognised as an independent discipline?
4. What should a good “*model of the mind*” be able to explain? Why is there such a distinct division between competing models? Answer with reference to current and historical models, providing a critical commentary on their successes and failures.
5. Daniel Dennett and David Marr have both suggested that the mind can be approached on three “levels of explanation”. Provide a critical descriptive account of this “tripartite” approach, setting out why these authors have come to this conclusion and what it offers beyond what came previously.
6. In what way do the methods chosen by researchers contribute to the knowledge gained? Is psychology as a discipline obsessed with debates about methodology? Write a critical review of methods in psychology, paying particular attention to how the methods used influence the knowledge produced.