



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**

<b><u>DATE: 09/12/2015</u></b>	<b><u>TIME: 2.00PM</u></b>
<b><u>WRITING TIME: 2 hours</u></b>	<b><u>READING TIME: 5 minutes</u></b>

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

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

**PAPER SETTER: Stuart Wilson**

## Answer TWO questions only:

1. Is the consciousness problem a problem for psychologists or a problem for philosophers? Provide a critical discussion on the nature of the consciousness problem and the issues that may prevent its resolution in current scientific paradigms.
2. In your opinion, has the widespread adoption of *null hypothesis significance testing* in psychology been a success? Answer with reference to current and historical methodological issues, controversies and empirical work
3. Psychology emerged from philosophy, but what role does philosophy play in contemporary psychology? Does psychology still need philosophy to succeed? Provide a critical account that explores the benefits and drawbacks of incorporating philosophy into modern psychology, focusing on conceptual and empirical issue
4. What should a good "*model of the mind*" be able to explain? Answer with reference to current and historical models, providing a critical commentary on their successes and failures.
5. What implications do the findings from modern psychology, neuroscience and related disciplines have for our understanding of the nature of "*free will*"? Answer with reference to conceptual, historical and empirical issues.
6. "*Introspection*" as a method of investigating psychological phenomena is now considered to be antiquated and useless. Is this fair? Provide a critical commentary on introspection as a method of discovery, paying close attention to historical and conceptual issues.