



Queen Margaret University
EDINBURGH

SCHOOL OF ARTS, SOCIAL SCIENCES AND MANAGEMENT

DIVISION OF PSYCHOLOGY & SOCIOLOGY

LEVEL 4 DIET 2

MODULE CODE: 4069

MODULE TITLE: Evolutionary Psychology

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME: 9.30AM</u>
<u>WRITING TIME: 2 Hours</u>	<u>READING TIME: 5 minutes</u>

INSTRUCTIONS: Candidates must answer ONE question from Section A and ONE question from Section B. Use a separate answer booklet for each question.

PAPER SETTER: Dr. Stuart Wilson

Answer **ONE** question from **each section**.

Section A: General and Conceptual Issues

1. Evolutionary psychology emerged as its own discipline in the late 1980s/early 1990s. Provide a critical account of evolutionary approaches to human behaviour *prior* to this, paying close attention to the reasons why some psychologists felt that a new field was necessary.
2. Evolutionary psychologists have been critical of the “Standard Social Science Model” of human thought and behaviour. In your view, how successful have they been in challenging this model and the “blank-slate” position that underlies it?
3. Is a modular cognitive architecture preferable to a non-modular one? Provide a critical account paying close attention to the arguments made by evolutionary psychologists.

Section B: Topics in Evolutionary Psychology

4. Describe and critically evaluate what you see as being the main evolutionary reasons why humans engage in high levels of cooperative behaviour.
5. Can evolutionary theory ever provide an adequate explanation for human culture? Compare, contrast and critically evaluate **TWO** competing theories from the evolutionary sciences that attempt to do this.
6. Aggression is a behavioural strategy that has emerged in many different species. Describe the selection pressures that may have given rise to such strategies, paying particular attention to how aggression manifests in humans, and provide a critique of evolutionary approaches to such phenomena.

7. Describe Bateman's principle. How does this help explain female "choosiness"?

8. What kinds of factors can affect sex ratios within a population? What happens when sex ratios are skewed?

End of Paper