



Queen Margaret University
EDINBURGH

SCHOOL OF ARTS, SOCIAL SCIENCES AND MANAGEMENT

DIVISION OF PSYCHOLOGY & SOCIOLOGY

LEVEL 4 DIET 2

MODULE CODE: X4069

MODULE TITLE: Evolutionary Psychology

<u>DATE: 24 July 2018</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. What assumptions do evolutionary psychologists make about the human mind, and (in your opinion) are these assumptions valid?
2. Do we need evolutionary psychology? In what way would psychology and other social sciences be different without evolutionary thinking? Answer with reference to conceptual and historical issues in psychology and related disciplines.
3. Provide a critical account of the methods used by evolutionary psychologists to test their hypotheses.

Section B: Topics in Evolutionary Psychology

4. According to evolutionary psychologists, why are aggressive behaviours more common in some social groups compared to others?
5. What psychological phenomena need to be in place in order for “culture” to emerge in a species? Answer with reference to theory and research from the evolutionary sciences.
6. What is the evidence that the forming of aggressive coalitions has an evolutionary basis?
7. What is the difference between direct and indirect benefits in females’ evaluation of potential mates, and what biological and ecological conditions can affect the relative importance of these two classes of benefit?
8. What mating system(s) do humans practice, and what kinds of ecological factors can affect what system is practiced in a given population?