



Queen Margaret University  
EDINBURGH

**SCHOOL OF ARTS, SOCIAL SCIENCES AND MANAGEMENT**

**DIVISION OF PSYCHOLOGY & SOCIOLOGY**

**LEVEL 4 DIET 1**

**MODULE CODE: X4069**

**MODULE TITLE: Evolutionary Psychology**

<b><u>DATE: 26<sup>th</sup> April 2019</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:** 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. Why did evolutionary psychology involve itself with debates about cognitive architectures? Provide a critical account of the primacy of modular models of the mind amongst (some) evolutionary psychologists and comment on potential alternatives.
2. Darwin predicted that psychology would eventually come to be dominated by evolutionary explanations. In your view, was this justified? Did Darwin's prediction come true? Answer with reference to conceptual and historical issues in psychology and related disciplines.
3. In your view, what are the main strengths and weaknesses of an evolutionary perspective on human thought and behaviour? Provide a commentary that incorporates both theoretical perspectives and research data.

### **Section B: Topics in Evolutionary Psychology**

4. Have evolutionary psychologists contributed to our understanding of aggressive behaviours in humans? Discuss the theoretical and empirical work that has attempted to explain aggression in evolutionary terms and provide a critical appraisal of how successful this endeavour has been.
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 cooperative alliances has an evolutionary basis? Critically discuss both theory and research into the evolutionary basis of human cooperation.

7. Which sex is “choosier” with respect to mate choice? How do biological differences involved in reproduction underpin this difference?
  
8. There is some controversy amongst scientists who say it is not possible to test the Trivers-Willard hypothesis in human populations. What does research involving non-human primates have to say on the matter?