

## Exam Questions

### PSY2503 Culture and Community Psychology / Fall 22

Below are four questions referring to four topics covered in the course. Your task is to choose and answer *one* of these questions.

- 1) The directorate of integration and diversity is preparing a new strategy for the reception of refugees in Norway. They have contacted you as a culture-and-community psychologist asking for your advice. Based on the article “The Missing Side of Acculturation” by Kunst and colleagues (2021) and one other paper of your choice from the course readings list, what would be your main suggestions for the directorate? Make sure to include suggestions at different levels (e.g., individual, socio-structural, etc.)
- 2) Based on the theoretical groundwork provided in the course readings, discuss the role of critical psychological perspectives in addressing issues of injustice and marginalization in today’s society and describe some of the main issues that future research should address. Provide at least one empirical example.
- 3) You have recently started a job as a culture-and-community psychologist at the International Working Group for Indigenous Affairs. Norway has asked you for advice on how to improve the relations between the Norwegian mainstream society and the Saami. Based on the theories and empirical examples discussed in this course, what would be your main suggestions?
- 4) A [2019 Forbes article](#) proposed a ranking of different nations’ intelligence, concluding that Singaporeans are the most intelligent nation, followed by China and Hong-Kong. Based on the lectures and readings for this course, discuss the main limitations of comparing intelligence between countries in the way in which it was done in this article. You may choose to discuss the entirety of the article or to focus only on the part entitled “Current national IQ”.

**Scope and formal requirements:**

Your answer must be between 2000-2500 words. Please note that if you go beyond this word limit, we may only consider the first 2500 words for your grade. The word count does not include cover pages, references, tables, or figures. The text should have an orderly and logical structure with a clear introduction (scope of the assignment, problem description), the main part (your answer to the exam question with discussion where you provide arguments for your answer) and a short conclusion/summary. The language should be academic and educational. References should follow the APA7 format, both in the text and in the reference list at the end. The assignment does not need to have an abstract and table of contents. You can write in Norwegian, Swedish, Danish, or English.

Beyond this, there are no strict requirements for the format. You can choose to only use the syllabus literature, but you are also free to use other literature if you wish; this is not compulsory and will not affect your grade. You are free to choose what you want to include in the answer, but the word limit means that you need to prioritize your ideas so that they fit (prioritization is part of the assignment). The goal is to show that you can professionally, coherently, and independently reflect upon the theories and the literature discussed during the semester.

*Tip 1:* If you struggle to stay within the word limit, and you have described several different arguments/suggestions/examples, consider cutting down on the number of items that you describe — it is usually better to discuss fewer arguments/suggestions/examples thoroughly instead of discussing many superficially.

*Tip 2:* The general rule is to use your own words and limit the use of direct quotes as much as possible. You are allowed to use direct quotes if necessary, but please make sure you clearly indicate them in line with APA7 rules. Failure to do so will be considered plagiarism and may result in failing the exam.

## **Grading guide**

### **Type of exam:**

Individual home exam (open book) over 3 days. The exam task will be made available on the **22nd of November 2022 at 9:00**. Deadline to hand in the exam is the **25th of November 2022 at 14:00**.

### **Expectations of a good answer in general**

A good answer must include the following elements:

- The candidate has referenced more than one paper from the reading list and has engaged with the course literature. Adding other literature in itself should *not* affect the grade but making good points that are based on broader literature can be considered a plus. Not referencing the course literature can be a reason to lower the grade or, in the worst case, to fail the candidate.
- Format:  
References should be given in text. References should follow the APA format, both in the text and in the reference list at the end. In addition, there are no strict requirements for formatting (e.g., consistent use of the APA standard). No table of contents or abstract is required. The text should have an orderly and logical structure with a clear introduction (scope of the assignment, problem description), the main part (the answer to the exam question with discussion) and a short conclusion/summary.

## Detailed guide for graders

### A answer:

The candidate has engaged with the course literature (i.e., more than one paper from the readings list) and has shown not only a good level of understanding of the literature, but also their own independent, mature reflection upon the topic. The answer is well-structured. Ideally, all formal requirements are fulfilled (but minor deviations from the formal requirements, e.g., APA, will be allowed in case of particularly good answers). The language should be academic and educational.

### B answer:

The candidate has engaged with the course literature and has shown a good level of understanding of the literature, but their answer has *one* of the following shortcomings:

- Their own reflection upon the topic is underdeveloped;
- The answer is not optimally structured (e.g., the main parts of the answer are not clearly delineated, the logical links between the arguments are not clear);
- The candidate overlooked a major point(s) and prioritized less important arguments (but these are still coherent).

Formal requirements are fulfilled; minor deviations from the formal requirements (e.g., APA) will be allowed, but larger deviations may be a reason to lower the grade to C. The language should be scientific and educational, but minor deviations are allowed.

### C answer:

The candidate has engaged with the course literature and has shown some understanding of the literature, but their answer has *more than one* of the following shortcomings:

- Their own reflection upon the topic is underdeveloped;
- The answer is not optimally structured (e.g., the main parts of the answer are not clearly delineated, the logical links between the arguments are hard to grasp);
- The candidate overlooked a major point(s) and prioritized less important arguments;
- The candidate used a substantial number of direct quotes to avoid arguing in their own words;
- The language is not scientific.

Formal requirements are fulfilled; minor deviations from the formal requirements (e.g., APA) will be allowed, but larger deviations may be a reason to lower the grade to D.

### D answer:

The candidate has engaged with the course literature but has shown limited (but still some) understanding of the literature. Moreover, their answer has *more than two* of the following shortcomings:

- Their own reflection upon the topic is *very* underdeveloped;
- The answer is *poorly* structured (e.g., chaotic writing, “stream of consciousness” writing)
- The candidate overlooked a major point(s) and prioritized less important arguments;
- More than 50% of the assignment consists of direct quotes (clearly indicated), the candidate clearly avoids using their own words;
- The language is not scientific and generally poor.

Formal requirements are fulfilled; minor deviations from the formal requirements (e.g., APA) will be allowed, but larger deviations may be a reason to lower the grade to E.

*Please note:* While there is no clear-cut difference between a C and a D, the overall rule is that C is a good answer that needs substantial polishing, whereas D is not a great answer and even though there is sense in it, you would rather see it rewritten from scratch. For instance, the aspects that would make an answer a D rather than a C are: the understanding of the literature and own reflection are even more underdeveloped, and/or the writing is clearly poor and chaotic, and/or the direct quotes clearly predominate over the candidate’s own thoughts and writing.

**E answer:**

The candidate has engaged with the course literature but has shown *very* limited understanding of the literature. Moreover, their answer has *one* of the following shortcomings:

- Their own reflection upon the topic is *missing*, or makes little sense, or indicates very limited effort put towards it;
- The candidate overlooked *all* major points and prioritized arguments that were not rooted in theory/readings (e.g., own opinions instead of actual arguments).

The answer *may or may not* also include one or more of the following shortcomings:

- The answer is poorly structured (e.g., chaotic writing, “stream of consciousness” writing)
- The candidate used a substantial number of direct quotes to avoid arguing in their own words;
- The language deviates *severely* from scientific language;
- Major deviations from the formal requirements.

*Please note:* this is still a passing grade, thus the answer must make *some* sense; as an absolute minimum, the choice of referenced literature should be reasonable and its description should be roughly correct.

**F answer:**

Any of the following may be a reason to fail the candidate:

- The candidate has not engaged with the course literature at all *and/or* has shown *no* understanding of the literature;

- Plagiarism: the candidate used direct quotes without indicating that these are direct quotes (e.g., copy-paste from articles or slides that is not between quotation marks/in cursive/indented; even if the reference between parentheses is indicated);
- The candidate has ignored the formal requirements *and* their answer lacks structure and substance.

*Note:* If the candidate has voiced ungrounded opinions that are offensive to individuals or groups, overtly xenophobic or discriminatory, the answer should be reported to the course coordinator prior to giving a grade.