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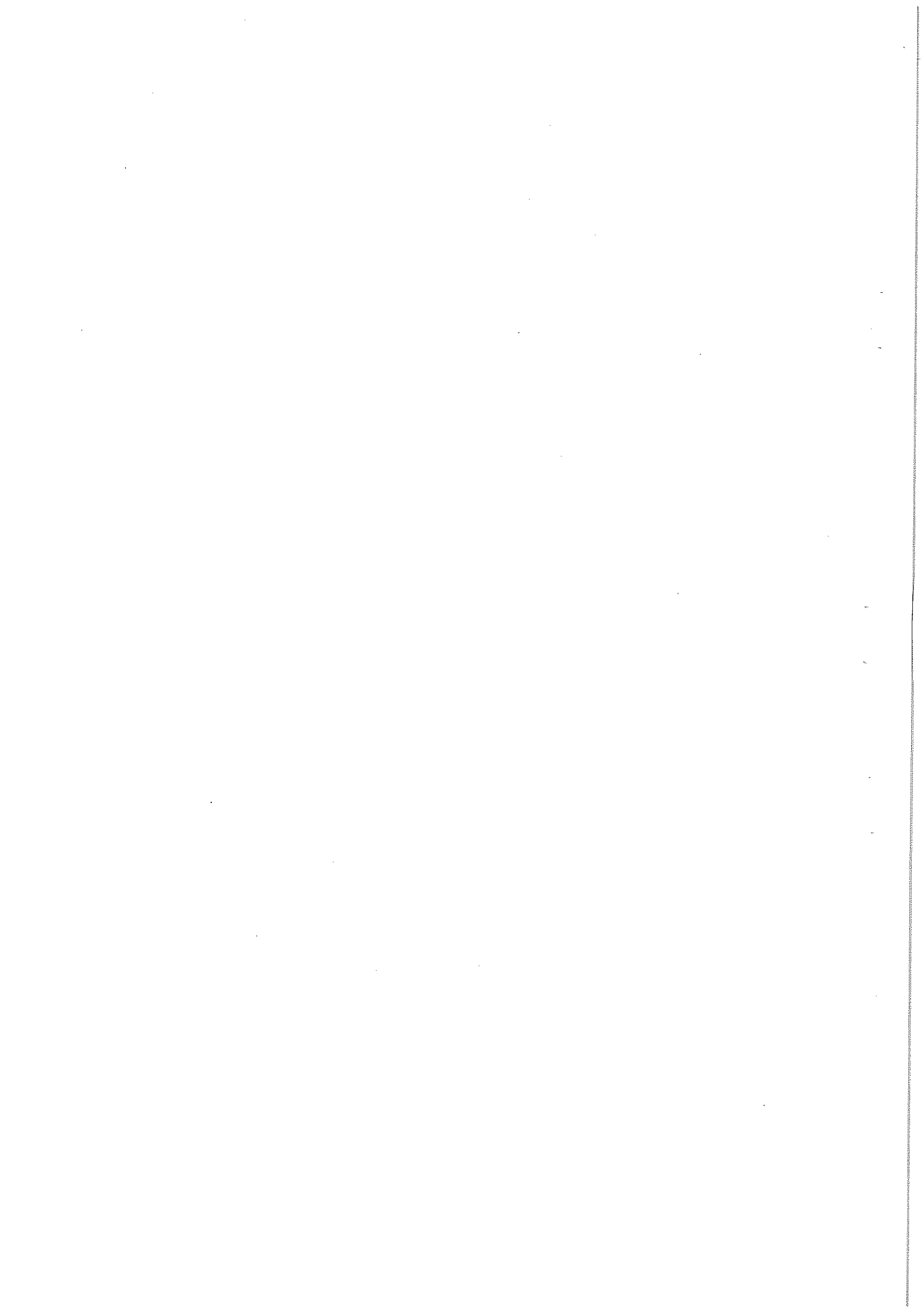
THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY & COUNSELLING
2020/2021 – SEMESTER I—FINAL EXAMINATION



BSC (HONS) IN PSYCHOLOGY
PLU 3205 - ACADEMIC WRITING IN PSYCHOLOGY - LEVEL 3
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER
DURATION: 02 HOURS

DATE: 29th March 2022

TIME: 9.30 am – 11.30 am



INDEX NO:

SECTION 2: ESSAY QUESTIONS (60 MARKS)

Choose 04 out of the 06 questions given below and answer using the provided answer sheets

2.1 The development of the skills required to write research reports is aided by the ability to critically read research reports.

National strategies to manage COVID-19, including lockdown, have caused significant disruption to student learning and to the ways that students engage with staff and peers. The transition to online learning, alongside common anxieties associated with the disease itself, was likely to have affected student mental health. This study explored psychology student mental health experiences during Lockdown Phase 3 at the University of the Witwatersrand. A convenience sample of 160 first- and second-year psychology students completed a questionnaire consisting of the General Mental Health Scale, the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale, the Burnout Measure, the Brief Coping Orientation to Problems Experienced, the Connor–Davidson Resilience Scale, and the Generalised Self Efficacy Scale. In addition, six open-ended questions asking students about their experiences and support during this time were included. Descriptive statistics were used to analyse quantitative data, whereas content and thematic analysis was used for the open-ended responses. Results indicated that students' scores were not elevated on the mental health scales. However, the thematic analysis of responses revealed significant concerns with regard to psychological wellbeing, online learning, and home dynamics. These are discussed with a view to providing recommendations for supporting students in circumstances that may require emergency remote teaching.

Title: Undergraduate psychology student experiences during COVID-19: challenges encountered and lessons learnt

Authors: Sumaya Laher, Katherine Bain, Nabeelah Bemath, Victor de Andrade and Tasneem Hassem

Year of publication: 2021

Journal: South African Journal of Psychology

Issue and volume number: Volume 5, issue 12

Page numbers: 215-228

Digital object Identifier: 10.1177/0081246321995095

- a) State the components of a research report included in this abstract (4 marks)
- b) Briefly describe the participants of this research study (3 marks)

c) Please demonstrate how the authors of this study could be presented as a direct and an indirect reference within a text. (4 marks)

d) Write a full reference entry for this journal as per APA 7th edition guidelines. (4 marks)

2.2 A variety of skills and techniques contribute to writing and thinking critically.

a) State five attitudes and skills related to the critical thinking process. (5 marks)

b) Describe two characteristics of critical writing. Please provide an example for each characteristic (10 marks)

2.3 Not committing academically dishonest behaviour can encourage practices that facilitate academic integrity.

b) Name and describe two ways that a student can commit plagiarism when writing an individual assignment (10 marks)

c) Briefly describe one of the main methods that could be utilised to avoid plagiarising content (3 marks)

d) Name two ethical principles upheld by the British Psychological Society in research (2 marks)

2.4 Understanding how to build arguments allows students to improve their academic writing skills.

a) When reading an argumentative essay, name five features that would help you identify the author's position? (5 marks)

b) What is an argument? Include a definition and briefly describe the different types of arguments. (5 marks)

c) What is the difference between an explanation and a description? (5 marks)

2.5 "A good essay is one that is well-organised."

a) Describe the features of good introduction (5 marks)

b) "Distance learning is the most suitable method of learning in the twenty first century."

Write an introductory paragraph for an essay discussing the above-mentioned statement. (10 marks)

2.6 Well-written content allows the writer to effectively communicate with the reader.

a) Write the following paragraph in formal language (7 marks)

In Singapore, kids aged six and above are legally required to wear masks. But many kindergartens and pre-schools also strongly encourage the practice for younger kids. Meaning they are asked to wear masks for about eight hours every weekday. Lots of researchers argue that even the most colourful mask pattern can't change one problem with masks: they hide half the face and may make it harder to figure out people's moods and feelings.

- b) You have been asked to write about mask wearing during the pandemic using primary and secondary sources. What is the difference between a primary source and a secondary source? Explain your answer with an example for each type of source (5 marks)
- c) List three ideas in relation to mask wearing during the COVID-19 pandemic (3 marks)

-----END OF QUESTION PAPER-----

