

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA  
FACULTY OF EDUCATION  
THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA  
FACULTY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION



POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION PROGRAMME –  
2022/2023

FINAL EXAMINATION – 2023

SNP8340/SNP8530 – PSYCHOLOGY FOR SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION

DURATION – THREE (03) HOURS

Date: 09.12.2023

Time: 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

Answer All Questions in Part I and any three (03) questions from Part II.

**PART - I**

01. “What is meant by “Total Development” of a child?” Briefly explain with an example.
02. “It is difficult to use experimental methods in the field of Educational Psychology”. Justify this statement providing **two (02)** reasons.
03. Mention **five (05)** environmental factors that influence the personality of a child with special educational needs in Sri Lankan context.
04. Discuss the role of heredity in relation to the growth and development of children with special educational needs.
05. Briefly explain the difference between short term memory and long term memory with appropriate examples.
06. “Why is the adolescence called as a period of storm and stress?” Explain with **two (02)** examples.
07. List out **five (05)** techniques that can be used to improve memory of a child with language learning disabilities.
08. Briefly explain Bruner’s Theory of Cognitive Development and its application in facilitating children with special educational needs.

(5 x 8 = 40 marks)

PART – II

09. i. Define the term “Educational Psychology” by using an acceptable definition and explain it with your own words. (04 marks)
- ii. Briefly explain **four (04)** benefits that could be gained by a teacher studying Educational Psychology for Special Needs Education. (06 marks)
- iii. Analyze the role of the teacher when organizing learning experiences for children with special educational needs under the context of Educational Psychology. (10 marks)
10. i. Differentiate Behavioural Theories of Learning and Cognitive Theories of Learning citing **three (03)** examples. (06 marks)
- ii. State three (03) Cognitive Theories of Learning and explain the basic principles. (06 marks)
- iii. Explain how you can apply the above mentioned principles of Cognitive Theory of Learning into the classroom learning situations as a teacher in Special Needs Education. (08 marks)
11. i. State **three (03)** differences between the Experimental Methods of child studies and Non-experimental Method of Child Studies. (06 marks)
- ii. a. Name **four (04)** Non-experimental Methods of Child Studies.
- b. Select **one (01)** of the above Non-experimental Methods of child studies and discuss how you can apply that method to study the students with special educational needs in your classroom. (06 marks)
- iii. Explain **three (03)** advantages and **three (03)** disadvantages you would face when you apply the above-mentioned method in the classroom. (08 marks)
12. i. Mention **four (04)** Primary Emotions and explain how they affect to develop Secondary Emotions. (04 marks)
- ii. “Emotional development of children with special educational needs is crucial in their personality development.” Do you agree with his statement? Justify your answer citing **three (03)** examples. (06 marks)
- iii. Discuss your role as a teacher in Special Needs Education in relation to the development of wholesome emotions in children with special educational needs. (10 marks)

13. i. Differentiate the basic principles of Piaget's Theory of Cognitive Development and Vygotsky's Theory of Cognitive Development. (06 marks)
- ii. Explain **four (04)** strategies that a teacher can use to facilitate the Cognitive Development of children in relation to Piaget's Theory of Cognitive Development. (06 marks)
- iii. Discuss **three (03)** challenges that would be faced by the teacher when applying the above-mentioned strategies with the children with special education needs and **three (03)** suggestions to overcome them. (08 marks)
14. "Motivation plays a key role in facilitating learning of children with special educational needs"
- i. Define the concept of motivation with a standard definition. (04 marks)
- ii. a. Name **two (02)** theories under Humanistic Theories of Motivation.  
b. Select **one (01)** of the above-mentioned theories and briefly explain the key principles put forward under that theory. (08 marks)
- iii. Discuss how the above mentioned key principles can be applied in the classroom situation to motivate the students with special educational needs. (08 marks)

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