



THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
FACULTY OF EDUCATION
BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (HONOURS) IN PRIMARY
EDUCATION
LEVEL - 04- 2023/2024
FINAL EXAMINATION
EPU4534 – ADJUSTMENT PROBLEMS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD AND PRIMARY
YEARS
DURATION – THREE (03) HOURS

Date: 21.06.2025

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. Define the term “Adjustment Problems” relate to children in Early Childhood and describe **two (02)** diagnostic criteria based on the DSM-5 classification.
02. Name **two (02)** barriers that children in Early Childhood and Primary Education may face when coping with challenging situations later in adulthood.
03. List the **four (04)** stages of Piaget’s theory of cognitive development in children. Choose one stage and explain it with relevant examples.
04. Briefly describe **two (02)** stressful life events that could impact a child’s academic performance or social behaviour.
05. Explain **two (02)** symptoms commonly observed in children with adjustment problems, using real-life examples from a school setting.
06. List **five (05)** emotional or behavioral characteristics that may be present in children with Special Needs due to adjustment problems.
07. Describe **two (02)** effective teaching strategies that can be implemented in Primary classroom to support children experiencing adjustment problems.
08. Discuss how environmental factors contribute to adjustment problems during Early Childhood, providing **three (03)** concrete examples.

(5 x 8 = 40 marks)

PART – II

09. “Imagine you are teaching a student who frequently shows aggression and sadness in the classroom”
- i. State **two (02)** possible psychological or environmental causes for those behaviour issues. (05 marks)
 - ii. Explain how unresolved conflict during the “Initiative vs. Guilt” stage can lead to adjustment problems in primary school based on Erikson’s theory of psychosocial development. (07 marks)
 - iii. Suggest **four (04)** actions that a teacher can take to manage the psychosocial environment in the classroom to support students experiencing adjustment problems. (08 marks)
- 10.
- i. Define the concept of reciprocity in classroom management. (05 marks)
 - ii. Explain **three (03)** competencies teachers need to develop to effectively handle children with adjustment problems. Justify your answer with suitable examples. (07 marks)
 - iii. As a teacher, you are dealing with a child who is withdrawn and rarely speaks in class. Develop **four (04)** specific strategies based on Bandura’s Social Learning Theory to support this student’s adjustment. (08 marks)
- 11.
- i. Explain with **two (02)** examples how healthy peer interaction influence children’s social development in a classroom setting. (05 marks)
 - ii. As a teacher, describe how you would use group activities to support a student facing adjustment issues. Mention at least **three (03)** strategies. (07 marks)
 - iii. “Sometimes children are rejected by peers due to their behavioural differences”
Explain **four (04)** teacher interventions that can prevent peer rejection and promote inclusion. (08 marks)
- 12.
- i. Describe **two (02)** ways parents or caregivers can help children cope with emotional stress caused by family-related issues. (05 marks)
 - ii. Teachers often observe early signs of adjustment problems. Identify four (04) such signs and briefly explain. (07 marks)
 - iii. Mention **four (04)** services available to address adjustment problems among children and explain how each can be used to support children. (08 marks)

13. “Chithra is a 7 year old student who struggle with writing. She excels in mathematics but consistently makes mistakes in writing Sinhala letters and spelling. Her teacher perceives her as lazy and careless, but Chithra’s difficulties suggest a learning disability such as dyslexia”
- i. Explain the learning difficulties that Chithra is experiencing and why these may be signs of dyslexia. (05 marks)
 - ii. How can a teacher differentiate between laziness and a learning disability. Explain with **three (03)** examples. (07 marks)
 - iii. List and explain **three (03)** teaching strategies that would help Chithra improve her writing skills in the classroom. (08 marks)

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