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**THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY & COUNSELLING
ACADEMIC YEAR 2024/2025 – SEMESTER I**



**BSC HONS IN PSYCHOLOGY
PLU3205– ACADEMIC WRITING IN PSYCHOLOGY - LEVEL 3
CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT TEST – NBT I
DURATION: 1 HOUR**

DATE: 09TH JANUARY 2025

TIME: 9.00 AM – 10.00 AM

INDEX NO:

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS/ INFORMATION TO CANDIDATES

- This question paper consists of **11 pages** with **TWO sections**
Section 1: 20 Multiple Choice Questions - (40 Marks)
Section 2: 12 Short Answer Questions - (60 Marks)
- Write your INDEX number in the space provided.
- **Multiple Choice Questions (Section 1):** Indicate answers in the **ANSWER SHEET** provided by placing a cross (X) in **INK** in the relevant cage (answers in pencil will **NOT** be marked)
- **Short Answer Questions (Section 2):** Write the answer within the space provided.
- Do **NOT** remove any page/part of this question paper from the examination hall.
- Do **NOT** keep unauthorized materials, including mobile phones and other electronic equipment, with you during the examination

SECTION 1: Multiple Choice Questions (20 Questions-40 Marks)

- 1.1 Clarity is a fundamental aspect of effective academic writing, ensuring that ideas are presented logically and cohesively. Which of the following best describes the importance of internal consistency in an argument?
- It ensures the argument is persuasive through emotional appeal.
 - It helps the audience follow the author's reasoning clearly.
 - It allows the author to ignore opposing arguments.
 - It prevents the need for evidence to support the argument.
- 1.2 A topic is the central focus of a discussion, guiding its direction and relevance. Which of the following represents a properly narrowed topic?
- Pollution → Air pollution → Causes of air pollution in urban areas
 - Education → Online education → Global education trends
 - Technology → Computers → The evolution of technology
 - Environment → Global warming → Effects of global warming
- 1.3 Reading in academic writing means evaluating texts to understand and support arguments. Which of the following best describes the purpose of skimming in academic reading?
- To carefully read every word to understand the details.
 - To quickly look for main ideas, key terms, and the structure.
 - To memorize the content to recall it at a later time.
 - To thoroughly analyze every argument presented in the text.
- 1.4 Coherence ensures the essay's ideas are logically connected, making the argument clear and easy to follow. Which of the following sentences best explains the concept of coherence in an academic essay.
- Sentences should have detailed and comprehensive information together.
 - Sentences should have a logical flow and must hold each other together.
 - Sentences should be organized in the order they were collected.
 - Sentences should be arranged with arguments and explanations.
- 1.5 Arguments are crucial as they present and support ideas logically, helping to persuade the reader with evidence. Which of the following is an example for a valid argument?
- All birds can fly. Penguins are birds. Therefore, penguins can fly.
 - All mammals have lungs. Whales are mammals. Therefore, whales have lungs.
 - All reptiles are cold-blooded. Frogs are reptiles. Therefore, frogs are cold-blooded.
 - All fish live in saltwater. Goldfish are fish. Therefore, goldfish live in saltwater.

- 1.6 A writing that consists of several paragraphs is called an essay. Which of the following best describes the role of body paragraphs in an essay?
- To introduce the topic and to narrow down to the topic.
 - To summarize the thesis statement and support the arguments.
 - To develop the main topic and support the thesis with arguments.
 - To provide the conclusion and final thoughts for the reader.
- 1.7 A paragraph consists of the topic sentence, the supporting sentences, and the concluding sentence. What is the role of supporting sentences in an academic paragraph?
- Introduce the main argument of the paragraph.
 - To give detailed examples and evidence supporting the topic.
 - To restate the topic sentence in different words.
 - To summarize the paragraph and provide a conclusion.
- 1.8 In academic writing, selecting reputable sources is essential. The characteristics of a reputable source in academic writing is ;
- the content is reliable and based on research.
 - is only accessible without any restrictions.
 - is including lot of references .
 - is only written in simple languages.
- 1.9 Contradictions are invalid as they break the rule that something cannot be true and false simultaneously. How can contradictions in an argument be managed effectively?
- By ignoring alternative viewpoints and supportive facts.
 - By avoiding all the counter arguments and explanations.
 - By showing why the main argument is more convincing.
 - By presenting all views as equally valid with examples.
- 1.10 Choose the correct answer by reading the below sentences.

A - The topic "Artificial Intelligence: Technology and Ethical Implications" captures the passage's discussion of both AI's technological advancements, and the ethical issues associated with its development.

B- This topic Artificial Intelligence: Technology and Ethical Implications" is suitable because it addresses the dual focus of the passage on AI's capabilities and applications, as

- Sentence 'A' is a description, sentence 'B' is an explanation.
- Sentence 'A' is an agreement, sentence 'B' is an explanation.
- Sentence 'A' is a description, sentence 'B' is an argument.
- Sentence 'A' is an explanation, sentence 'B' is a description.

Answer the questions from **11 – 13** using the paragraph below.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is an evolving technology in computer science that mimics human intelligence. This technology aims to create machines capable of reasoning, learning, and problem-solving by mimicking human cognitive functions. This technology allows computer and machine systems to adapt and improve performance without explicit programming using machine learning (ML), a subset of AI. Furthermore, AI technology is used in streaming platforms, autonomous vehicles, and advanced medical diagnostics. Due to its widespread usage, AI has become an integral part of the modern society. However, the rapid development of AI technology often raises ethical concerns, especially about data privacy and security. Also, advancements in this latest technology have the potential to increase unemployment across various sectors. Thus, it is essential to strike a balance between innovation and protection of human elements and interests in the job sector and personal life.

Therefore, as we adopt AI in our daily lives, it becomes our responsibility to generate awareness about crucial elements of AI and its impact on human civilization. On top of that, it is significant to mankind that technology should always adhere to the ethical guidelines of data privacy and cyber security. Also, federal and state governments must implement laws that prevent AI developers from threatening social harmony and national security within and beyond the nation's territorial boundaries (Singh, 2024).

- 1.11 Which of the following sentences is the topic sentence of the passage?
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) is an evolving technology in computer science that mimics human intelligence.
 - On top of that, it is significant to mankind that technology should always adhere to the ethical guidelines of data privacy and cyber security.
 - Also, advancements in this latest technology have the potential to increase unemployment across various sectors.
 - Furthermore, AI technology is used in streaming platforms, autonomous vehicles, and advanced medical diagnostics.
- 1.12 Which of the following is a signpost word used in the passage?
- Thus
 - AI
 - Technology
 - Ethics
- 1.13 Which of the following would be the most appropriate topic for the passage?
- An Overview of Artificial Intelligence and Its Uses
 - Ethical Concerns in Artificial Intelligence Development
 - The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Society and Economy
 - Artificial Intelligence: Technology and Ethical Implications

- 1.14 Key characteristics of critical and analytical writing include clarity, selecting key points, logical sequencing, and signposting. What is the primary purpose of signposting in academic writing?
- To make the paper look longer
 - To guide the reader through the argument
 - To provide evidence for the argument
 - To introduce new ideas unrelated to the topic
- 1.15 Transitional signals are used to guide the reader through a piece of writing. Which of the following transitional signals indicates the end of a paragraph?
- Similarly
 - In contrast
 - Finally
 - However
- 1.16 Identify the following paragraph ;
- "Sigmund Freud's concept of the mind divides it into three parts: the conscious, preconscious, and unconscious. The conscious mind includes thoughts we are aware of, the preconscious holds memories that can be recalled, and the unconscious stores repressed desires and experiences that influence behavior."
- Description
 - Argument
 - Explanation
 - Analysis
- 1.17 The choice of words can impact the tone and professionalism of the writing, influencing how the argument is perceived by the reader. Which of the following words is considered formal in academic writing?
- Worse
 - Enough
 - Better
 - Subsequently
- 1.18 Adhering to academic writing rules for titles ensures clarity, formality, and consistency in presenting the topic to the reader. Which of the following titles follows proper academic writing rules?
- The Effects of Stress on Health.
 - The effects of stress on health
 - The Effects of Stress on Health
 - THE EFFECTS OF STRESS ON HEALTH

- 1.19 There are two types of source materials: primary and secondary. Which of the following is an example of primary source material?
- a. A documentary film about a historical event
 - b. A blog article written about summary of a research
 - c. A newspaper article from the time of the event
 - d. A textbook explaining research findings
- 1.20 A well-organized paragraph includes five key elements including the topic sentence. What is the purpose of a topic sentence in an academic paragraph?
- a. To provide a detailed explanation of the supporting details.
 - b. To introduce the main idea or argument of the paragraph.
 - c. To conclude the paragraph with a summary.
 - d. To provide a list of examples related to the topic.

INDEX NO:

ANSWER SHEET FOR SECTION-1

Q. No.	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
1.1				
1.2				
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INDEX NO:

SECTION 2: SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS (60 MARKS)

All Questions are compulsory.

- 2.1 Briefly explain the significance of critical thinking in academic writing. (5 Marks)

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- 2.2 “Technology has played a significant role in education, but it also poses several challenges. Students can benefit from online courses and digital learning tools, yet these tools may not always engage students effectively. For example, some people argue that digital tools make it easier to access information but may also lead to distractions. In contrast, others point out that the rise of technology could diminish face-to-face interactions between teachers and students. There's also the issue of tech companies controlling educational materials, which many believe might limit the diversity of educational content. While some educators think the use of technology helps in teaching, the shift to digital learning environments might not be effective for all students.”

Identify whether this paragraph is internally consistent or not. Give reasons for your answer. (5 Marks)

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2.3 What is the difference between an argument and a disagreement. (5 Marks)

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2.4 Describe the process of conducting a literature search for academic purposes. (5 Marks)

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2.5 Describe the process of making effective notes for an assignment or research report. (5 Marks)

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2.6 Briefly explain what cohesive devices are and provide two examples each for illustration and cause-effect. (5 Marks)

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2.7 Briefly describe purpose of freewriting as a brainstorming activity. (5 Marks)

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2.8 What is the difference between opinions and facts as supporting details in a paragraph? (5 Marks)

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2.9 How does the listing technique help in the process of academic writing? (5 Marks)

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2.10 Describe the importance of funnel structure of an essay introduction. (5 Marks)

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2.11 State **five (05)** transitional words that could be use in conclusion. (5 Marks)

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2.12 Explain the importance of narrowing a topic in academic writing. (5 Marks)

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

