

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA  
 FACULTY OF EDUCATION  
 DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION  
 POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION  
 PROGRAMME – 2024/2025  
 FINAL EXAMINATION – 2025  
 SNP8246/SNP8336– EMERGING TRENDS IN SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION  
 DURATION – THREE (03) HOURS



Date: 26.07.2025

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. Identify **three (03)** important global documents that support the rights of children with special educational needs.
02. List **three (03)** functions of the education system from an individual perspective.
03. Briefly explain how distance education enables students with special educational needs to access learning opportunities effectively.
04. State **five (05)** advantages of non-formal education for the field of special education.
05. What are the two fundamental purposes of the special school system.
06. Inclusive education is often referred to as a team approach. Briefly explain the meaning of this statement.
07. State **five (05)** articles from the United Nations Convention on the rights of the Child (UNCRC) that protect the rights of children in special circumstances.
08. Explain the measures taken by Sri Lanka after 1990 to achieve the goal of Education for All.  
(5 x 8 = 40 marks)

**PART - II**

09. i. Explain the concept of Special Needs Education and how it differs from general education. (05 marks)
- ii. Describe the importance of Inclusive Education in promoting education for all. (07 marks)
- iii. Explain the barriers to implementing Inclusive Education practices in mainstream schools in Sri Lanka and provide suggestions to overcome these barriers. (08 marks)

10. i. Briefly explain how education contributes to both individual development and social progress. (05 marks)
- ii. Describe the inter-relationship between education and the economic structure of a society. (07 marks)
- iii. "Curriculum adaptation, differentiated instruction, and Universal Design for Learning are considered emerging trends in special needs education". Do you agree with this statement? Justify your answer. (08 marks)
11. i. Describe the characteristics of formal, informal, and non-formal education providing examples for each. (05 marks)
- ii. Analyze how lifelong education supports students with special educational needs. (07 marks)
- iii. Examine the role of career education in empowering individuals with disabilities. (8 marks)
12. i. Examine the key educational reforms introduced in Sri Lanka after 1990 to ensure Education for All. (05 marks)
- ii. Describe the efforts made by the Sri Lankan government to include children with special needs in mainstream education. (07 marks)
- iii. Analyze the major challenges faced by Sri Lanka in achieving inclusive education goals. (08 marks)
13. i. Briefly explain the historical development of inclusive education. (05 marks)
- ii. Explain the principles of inclusive education and their application in mainstream schools. (07 marks)
- iii. Describe the roles and responsibilities of teachers in promoting inclusive practices. (08 marks)
14. i. Briefly explain the term "children placed in special circumstances" with examples. (05 marks)
- ii. Examine the changes needed required in policy and practice to better protect the rights of children in special circumstances. (07 marks)
- iii. According to UNICEF (2006), explain the global trends concerning children placed in special circumstances. (08 marks)