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**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
SNP8348/SNP8338 – EDUCATIONAL GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING FOR CHILDREN
WITH SPECIAL NEEDS
DURATION – THREE (03) HOURS**

Date: 27.07.2025

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. Explain, with examples, the differences between educational guidance and educational counselling.
02. Briefly describe, using **two (02)** examples, how a teacher's knowledge of guidance and counselling can support children with special needs.
03. Describe **three (03)** key principles of the psychoanalytic approach used in counselling.
04. Explain the significance of early identification and intervention in the counselling process for children with developmental disorders.
05. Discuss the role of school counsellors in addressing and challenging societal stigmas associated with disability.
06. Explain briefly how peer rejection and exclusion in school environments can affect the social adjustment of children with special needs.
07. How can Carl Rogers' person-centered counselling approach be adapted to support the self-esteem and emotional well-being of children with physical disabilities? Provide with two (02) relevant examples.
08. Explain the relevance of Eli Ginzberg's Theory of Career Choice in guiding individuals with disabilities toward fulfilling career paths.

(5 x 8 = 40 marks)

PART – II

09. i. Define the term “adjustment” and explain its significance in the context of human behaviour and environment. (05 marks)
- ii. Analyze the role of parenting practices in shaping emotional stability and adjustment in children. Support your response with relevant examples. (07 marks)
- iii. Discuss the challenges faced by children with adjustment problems in school settings. How can teachers effectively intervene to support these students? Illustrate your answer with relevant examples. (08 marks)
10. “Counselling is a systematic and methodical process”.
- i. Analyze the phases of the counselling process, with reference to Hackney & Cormier’s five-stage model. (05 marks)
- ii. Examine the importance of establishing a positive counsellor-client relationship during the initial stage of counselling (08 marks)
- iii. Critically assess the essential skills a counsellor must possess to ensure an effective counselling process. Use examples to show how each skill contributes to successful client outcomes. (08 marks)
11. i. Explain the importance of career guidance for students with special needs, providing suitable examples. (05 marks)
- ii. Explore how digital technologies and assistive devices can be utilized to expand career opportunities for individual with disabilities. Support your answer with examples. (07 marks)
- iii. What role should career counsellors play in introducing and guiding the use of these technologies? (08 marks)

12. Case Study: "You are a school counsellor. A teacher refers a 6-year old child who avoids eye contact, displays repetitive behaviour, and struggles with peer interactions. The teacher is unsure how to support the child in an inclusive classroom"
- i. How would you assess the needs of this child? (05 marks)
 - ii. How would you guide the teacher to develop an effective support plan for the child. Support your answer with examples. (07 marks)
 - iii. How would you guide the parents to creating an effective support plan at home? Support your response with examples. (08 marks)
13. "Social withdrawal is not just a behavioural issue but a developmental warning sign"
- i. Analyze the causes of social withdrawal in school-aged children. (05 marks)
 - ii. How does social withdrawal affect peer relationships and classroom participation? (07 marks)
 - iii. Describe and justify a counselling-based intervention plan to support a student exhibiting persistent social withdrawal. (08 marks)
- 14.
- i. Define the term "hearing impairment" and provide suitable examples. (05 marks)
 - ii. Describe **five (05)** observable behaviours of children commonly seen in children with hearing impairment. (07 marks)
 - iii. Explain the procedures a teacher should follow to support children with hearing impairment in the classroom. (08 marks)

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