

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY & COUNSELLING
2024/2025 – SEMESTER II —FINAL EXAMINATION



BSC (HONS) IN PSYCHOLOGY
PLU 4305– LANGUAGE AND COGNITION- LEVEL 4
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER
DURATION: 03 HOURS

23 OCT 2025

EXAMINATION DIVISION

DATE: 29TH OCTOBER 2025

TIME: 9.30 AM – 12.30 PM

SECTION 2: STRUCTURED ESSAY QUESTIONS (60 MARKS)

Choose 04 out of the 06 questions given below and answer using the provided answer sheets.

- 2.1 Language and cognition are closely connected, and the study of animal communication provides further insights into this relationship.**
- a. Explain the relationship between language and cognition, highlighting how linguistic processes support cognitive development and functioning. (07 marks)
 - b. Compare and contrast human language and cognition capacities with animal cognitive and communication capacities. (08 marks)
- 2.2 Noam Chomsky revolutionized the study of language by challenging behaviourist views.**
- a. Explain the key arguments Chomsky made in his critique of B.F. Skinner's theory of language acquisition. (05 marks)
 - b. Briefly discuss the main features of Chomsky's theory of Universal Grammar and its premises. (05 marks)
 - c. Compare and contrast Chomsky's nativist perspective with behaviourist approaches. (05 marks)
- 2.3 Language development in children is influenced by both biological factors and socio-cultural contexts.**
- a. Explain the major stages of children's language development. (07 marks)
 - b. Discuss how cultural and social interactions influence language learning in children. (08 marks)
- 2.4 Speech and language disorders can affect both children and adults, though the causes and types may differ across the lifespan.**
- a. Identify and describe one (01) speech-related disorder found in children. (05 marks)
 - b. Identify and describe one (01) of the speech-related disorders found in adults. (05 marks)
 - c. Explain how these disorders can impact communication and daily functioning by selecting either the children or the adult group. (05 marks)

2.5 Nonverbal communication plays a crucial role in human interaction, often reinforcing or even replacing verbal communication.

- a. Explain the main functions of nonverbal communication with suitable examples. (05 marks)
- b. Describe different types of nonverbal communication, highlighting how they vary across cultures. (05 marks)
- c. Discuss the limitations of nonverbal communication in comparison to verbal communication. (05 marks)

2.6 Briefly describe three (03) of the following topics. (3x05 Marks)

- a. Properties of language
- b. Longitudinal studies on language development
- c. Print awareness
- d. The speech chain
- e. The role of speech therapists

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