

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN DISTANCE EDUCATION
FINAL EXAMINATION 2008 (FIRST SEMESTER)
ESP 1120 – PHILOSOPHY AND PRACTICE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION
DURATION : THREE (03) HOURS



DATE : 19th March 2008

TIME : 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS IN PART I AND ANY THREE QUESTIONS FROM PART II

PART I

01. What do you mean by social credibility of distance education?
02. Explain briefly the evolution of the concept 'distance education'.
03. According to Moore's definition, what do you mean by "learner autonomy" in distance education?
04. What were the major landmarks in university level correspondence education in the 19th century?
05. List five unique features of the Open University system in contrast to conventional university system.
06. 'Few decades back people were reluctant to accept distance education as equivalent to traditional education' State at least three reasons for the above statement.
07. What are the functions of the Open School of National Institute of Education in Sri Lanka.
08. Explain briefly Holmberg's idea of 'Guided didactic conversation' in distance education.



PART II

09. Explain the role of distance education within social, economic and political contexts in the modern society.
10. Citing examples from three countries discuss how the distance education was used for the provision of non-formal education in developing countries.
11. "Excessive usage of technology in distance education will result in increasing inequality of access and participation." Discuss the above statement taking examples especially in relation to Sri Lanka
12. i. What are the main points in Otto Peter's theory of industrialization?
- ii. 'Distance education could be best analyzed using categories of industrial theory'. Discuss the above statement taking examples from a distance education institution familiar to you.
13. i. Discuss the problems and issues faced by distance learning systems in developing countries.
- ii. Propose some strategies to overcome the problems stated above.

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