



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

University Examinations 2016/2017

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY, SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION
AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

FIRST YEAR APRIL SSESSION EXAMINATION FOR DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
IN EDUCATION PSYCHOLOGY
EPS 903: DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

DATE: SCHOOLBASED

TIME:

INSTRUCTIONS:

Answer Question ONE (1) and Any Other TWO (2) in the answer booklet provided.

QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY) (20 MARKS)

- a) Citing appropriate and relevant examples, explain two basic assumptions of the following theoretical perspectives of development:
- i) Psychoanalytic theory
 - ii) Ecological theory
 - iii) Vygotsky's Sociocultural Theory
 - iv) Cross-cultural perspectives
 - v) Eclectic perspectives (5 marks)
- b) What should a care giver/teacher do to enhance language development during the early childhood stage of development? (8 marks)
- c) Clearly differentiate between longitudinal and cross-sectional studies of child development. (8 marks)

- d) Explain **TWO (2)** weaknesses of each of the following theories in the way they account for various aspects of human development:
- i) Freud's psychoanalytic theory
 - ii) Vygotsky's Sociocultural Theory
 - iii) Cognitive Social Learning Theory
 - iv) Piaget's theory of moral reasoning (4 marks)
- e) Giving relevant examples, briefly elaborate on the concept of **Plasticity** in the early years of development. (5 marks)

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

- a) With the use of appropriate examples, explain the cognitive limitations of a child during Piaget's preoperational stage of cognitive development. (6 marks)
- b) Citing appropriate examples, explain the cognitive milestones realized by children during Piaget's concrete operations stage of cognitive development. (6 marks)
- c) Evaluate Piaget's theory of cognitive development from a cross-cultural point of view. (8 marks)

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

- a) Explain the factors that affect moral development. (6 marks)
- b) From a cross-cultural point of view, examine Kohlberg's theory of moral development. (14 marks)

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

- a) With relevant examples, explain how you can account for various birth defects among children. **(10 Marks)**
- b) Explain some of the factors that make the process of identity formation one of the most difficult tasks of the adolescent stage in modern technological societies. (10 marks)

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

- a) Explain gender differences in physical development that may be witnessed during the adolescent stage of development. (10 marks)
- b) The adolescence and early adulthood periods are considered to be the most health stages of development, yet the most vulnerable. Citing some of the major health risks, discuss this statement. (10 marks)