



Machakos University

ISO 9001:2008 Certified 

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY, ECE & SNE

**FIRST YEAR UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS FOR DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN
EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY**

2016-2017 ACADEMIC YEAR

YEAR 1 SEMESTER 1

EPS 903: DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

Date: _____

Time: _____

Day: _____

Duration: 3 Hours

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

QUESTION ONE (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 **(4 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)**