



**KENYATTA UNIVERSITY**  
**UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2015/2016**

**FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS**

**APS 819: DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY**

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**DATE:** Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2015

**TIME:** 5.30 p.m. - 8.30 p.m.

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**INSTRUCTIONS**

Answer **Question ONE** and any other **TWO** questions.

**Question 1**

- (a) According to Erikson's psychosocial theory, children pass through different crises between the ages of three to eleven years. Identify the crises that children go through during this stage of development and discuss how the crises can be resolved positively.

[10 Marks]

- (b) Betty was a mother of a three year old girl who was her first born. Betty gave strict instructions that she should not be allowed to go out to play with other children as she may get infected or hurt. Supposing you were to explain to Betty five reasons why children should play at this stage of development, what would be your response.

[10 Marks]

**Question 2**

**Read the following story and answer the questions that follow.**

John was a sixteen year old boy in Form three. He used to participate very well in class and was very active in co-curricular activities. In the last few months, there was a gradual decline in his class performance and he withdrew from all other co-curricular activities. His teachers have also complained of little communication from him. From your knowledge of developmental psychology:

- (a) Outline **five** possible explanations of John's behavior. [5 Marks]
- (b) Assuming John's parents came to consult you about his behavior, state and discuss **five** possible solutions to John's behavior. [15 Marks]

### Question 3

In a recent report in the daily papers reported that over 500 pre-adolescent and adolescent high school students were caught in a club engaging in unacceptable social and moral behavior such as smoking, drinking and illicit sexual behaviors. Using Bronfenbrenner's ecological theory, discuss the possible explanations of this behavior and suggest how such behaviors can be modified.

[20 Marks]

### Question 4

Matayo is a 59 year old man who retired recently following a fairly well satisfying career. However, since the retirement, he has become dissatisfied with his life and he has withdrawn from people and spends most of his time alone.

- (a) Identify **five** developmental tasks that Matayo is expected to accomplish. [5 Marks]
- (b) Discuss **five** factors that can explain his behavior and what can be done to help Mr. Matayo live a more effective life.

[15 Marks]

### Question 5

Discuss **five** developmental causes of psychopathology during the different stages of development. For each of the cause, explain how it can be mitigated to enhance optimal personality development.

[20 Marks]