



KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2020/2021

FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS

APS 212: CHILD PSYCHOLOGY

DATE: Monday, 14th June 2021

TIME: 2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.

INSTRUCTIONS:

ANSWER QUESTION ONE AND ANY OTHER TWO

(8 marks)

1. (a) Outline **three** importance of the knowledge of development to a child psychologist. (3 marks)

(b) Distinguish between the following concepts as used in child psychology;

(i) assimilation and accommodation (2 marks)

(ii) gross motor development and fine motor development (2 marks)

(iii) enuresis and encopresis (2 marks)

(c) Outline **three** parenting styles that can positively or negatively affect the development of a child's personality. (3 marks)

(d) List **four** central issues that theories of child development focus on. (4 marks)

(e) Using a suitable example, explain **one** importance of research in child psychology. (2 marks)

(f) Describe **three** basic models of observational learning from which children learn behaviors. (6 marks)

2. (a) Citing suitable examples, describe moral development in children from stage 1 to stage 4 according to Kohlberg. (12 marks)

(b) Using examples, explain **two** ways in which you can apply knowledge acquired on moral development when dealing with children. (8 marks)

3. (a) Citing relevant examples from the contemporary school situation in Kenya, explain **four** roles of play in child development. (12 marks)
- (b) Discuss any **two** factors that reduce the amount of play for children and how you can help alleviate them. (8 marks)
4. (a) Using examples, explain **three** principles of development in children. (12 marks)
- (b) Discuss **two** strengths and two limitations of using the experimental method to study behaviour in children. (8 marks)
5. (a) Describe **four** general principles that guide the effects of teratogens on prenatal development. (8 marks)
- (b) Citing relevant examples, explain any **three** maternal characteristics that can have a negative impact on prenatal development. (12 marks)



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UNIT NAME: CHILD PSYCHOLOGY

UNIT CODE: APS 212

END OF SEMESTER ONE 2020/2021 EXAM

REGULAR

INSTRUCTIONS:

ANSWER QUESTION ONE AND ANY OTHER TWO

1.a. Outline three importance of the knowledge of development to a child psychologist. (3 marks)

Acquires knowledge on stages of development and hence can be able to identify a child with abnormal development

Know how to work and counsel children

Understand that there are individual differences in children so as to be able to work and help them effectively

b. Distinguish between the following concepts as used in child psychology;

i. assimilation and accommodation (2 marks)

assimilation is the process of adaptation in which new knowledge is taken into pre existing schema

accommodation is restructuring or modifying what is already known

ii. gross motor development and fine motor development (2 marks)

gross motor development involves improvement of skills using the large muscles in the legs and arms.

Fine motor development involves improvement of the small muscles of the hands and fingers

iii. enuresis and encopresis (2 marks)

enuresis is the repeated voiding of urine during the day or night in bed or clothes involuntarily or intentional

encopresis is the repeated passage of feces into inappropriate places eg, clothes or floor

b. Describe three philosophical perspectives on child development. (6 marks)

-original sin

- tabula rasa

-Innate goodness

c. Outline three parenting styles that can positively or negatively affect the development of a child's personality. (6 marks)

authoritative

authoritarian

permissive

d. List four central issues that theories of child development focus on. (4 marks)

-role of nature versus nurture in shaping development

-whether child development proceeds in a continuous or stage like fashion

-the existence of critical or sensitive periods of development

-the importance of early experiences in shaping growth and development

e. Using a suitable example, explain one importance of research in child psychology. (2 marks)

knowledge acquired from research can enable a child psychologist to better identify, interpret, and respond to children's individual differences

f. Describe three basic models of observational learning from which children learn behaviors. (6 marks)

- a live model.

This involves an actual individual demonstrating or acting out a behavior

-A verbal instructional model

This involves descriptions and explanations of a behavior

-a symbolic model

This involves real or fictional characters displaying behaviors in books, films, tv programs

2. a. Citing suitable examples, describe moral development in children from stage 1 to stage 4 according to Kohlberg. (12 marks)

Stage 1 Punishment – obedience orientation

Moral decisions are shaped by the standards of adults and the consequences of following or breaking their rules. Punishment is used so that the child refrains from doing what is not right

Stage 2 instrumental relativist orientation

The person is said to judge morality of an action based on how it satisfies the individual needs of the doer. Eg, a person steals money from another person because he needs money

to buy food for his hungry children. The children tend to say that this action is morally right because of the serious need of the doer.

Stage 3 good boy nice girl orientation

In this stage the person judges an action based on the societal expectations before him. Eg, a child gives away her lunch because she thinks doing so means being nice.

Stage 4 law and order orientation

The child becomes aware of the wider rules of the society. This stage includes respecting the authorities and following the rules as well as doing ones duties as expected by the society.

b. Using examples, explain two ways in which you can apply knowledge acquired on moral development when dealing with children. (8 marks)

by understanding stages of moral development, one can help guide the children's moral development by setting a code of conduct in eg, a school to encourage good behavior

for children in stage 2, since they consider what is best for the individual is to be what is right, one can introduce activities that encourage cooperation between the children eg, games and assignments that require them to help each other

3. a. Citing relevant examples from the contemporary school situation in Kenya, explain four roles of play in child development. (12 marks)

Play facilitates language acquisition and skills by providing a vehicle through which language can be practiced and encouraged

Through play, children learn to express themselves in a unique and individual manner. They discover qualities about themselves and find their own sense of satisfaction.

Children master and integrate reality through play. Play has the adaptive function of diffusing situations of their negative and threatening qualities

Through play the child learns to master skills to cope with the changing roles in a changing environment, to assimilate and integrate processes and to develop an adaptive and individual personality.

b. Discuss any two factors that reduce the amount of play for children and how you can help alleviate them. (8 marks)

Focus on academics

Time for free play has been reduced. Children's free time has been reduced in an effort to focus on academics. This may reduce the ability of children to store information.

Educate parents and teachers the importance of play

Specialized enrichment programs

Children are hurried to adapt into adult roles and prepare for their future at an earlier age. Children are exposed to enrichment videos and computer programs and many other programs. As a result, much of the free play time is spent participating in these programs.

Educate parents on the need for children to have free play time and the importance of play

4. a. Using examples, explain three principles of development in children. (12 marks)

Cephalo caudal

Development proceeds from head downwards.

The child first gains control of the head and then the arms, then the legs. The infant gains control of head and face movements first and later is able to move the arms. Leg control takes place after this.

Proximal distal

Development proceeds from center of the body outward. The spinal cord develops before other parts of the body. The child's arms develop before the hands and fingers and the feet before the toes. Fingers and toes are the last to develop

Maturation

This refers to the biological changes in children. The orderly changes give children new abilities. Much of the maturation depends on changes in the brain and the nervous system. These changes assist children to improve their thinking abilities and motor skills.

b. Discuss two strengths and two limitations of using the experimental method to study behavior in children. (8 marks)

strengths

The experimenter is able to come up with a cause effect relationship since it is possible to manipulate the independent variable to see its effect on the dependent variable

It is possible to control the extraneous variables that may change together with the experimental manipulations

Limitations

Some experiments cannot be performed for ethical reasons

Some experiments may be too expensive and time consuming eg, longitudinal research

5.a. Describe four general principles that guide the effects of teratogens on prenatal development. (8 marks)

A teratogen exerts its effects largely during critical periods ie, during the embryonic stage

Each teratogen exerts certain specific effects

Either the foetal or maternal genotypes can counteract a teratogen's effects.

The effects of one teratogen may intensify the effects of another

The longer a foetus is exposed to a particular teratogen, the greater the intensity of the teratogen's effects

b. Citing relevant examples, explain any three maternal characteristics that can have a negative impact on prenatal development. (12 marks)

mother's age

teenage mothers tend to live in risky environments, to neglect their health and diet, and use drugs thus they risk premature and low birth weight babies.

Older mothers risk bearing children with down's syndrome

mother's diet

malnourishment can lead to miscarriage, still births, prematurity, low birth weight, physical and neural defects

mother's emotional state

mothers who are stressed may have more troubled pregnancies, miscarriages, long labour, delivery complications.

Mothers who are emotionally disturbed may be emotionally unstable for child birth and may not be able to adequately take care of the baby