

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY & COUNSELLING
2022/2023 – SEMESTER II —FINAL EXAMINATION



BSC (HONS) IN PSYCHOLOGY
PLU 3311 - COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY - LEVEL 3
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER
DURATION: 03 HOURS

DATE: 21.09.2023

TIME: 9.30 am-12.30 pm

SECTION 2: STRUCTURED ESSAY QUESTIONS (60 MARKS)

Choose 04 out of the 06 questions given below and answer using the provided answer sheets.

2.1 The nervous system regulates human cognitive processes through a complex network of organs, receiving, interpreting, and transmitting signals that shape our thoughts, perceptions, and actions.

- a) Name two main functions of the nervous system, and describe they relate to cognitive processes. (5 marks)
- b) Describe the structure and functions of the central nervous system (CNS) and the peripheral nervous system (PNS). (5 marks)
- c) Explain the key components of the forebrain, midbrain, and hindbrain, and discuss their respective roles in cognitive functioning. (5 marks)

2.2 Cognitive Psychology stands as a prominent branch within the field of Psychology.

- a) What is the core focus of cognitive psychology and its significance in understanding human behaviour? Explain. (7 marks)
- b) In the field of cognitive psychology, researchers employ various approaches to study human cognition. Describe four approaches currently used to study human cognition, with an example for each approach. (8 marks)

2.3 Attention plays a fundamental role in various cognitive processes and everyday activities.

- a) Describe the term attention in the context of cognitive psychology. (5 marks)
- b) Compare and contrast selective attention and divided attention with real life examples. (5 marks)
- c) Are humans better at divided attention? Provide your viewpoint and support it with a relevant theory or model. (5 marks)

2.4 In psychology, decision-making is considered the cognitive process of choosing a belief or course of action from several available alternatives. These choices can be rational or irrational in nature.

- a) As a recent graduate seeking your first job, you have received two enticing offers after multiple interviews. Job A comes with a higher salary but demands longer working hours and involves a lengthier commute. On the other hand, Job B offers a slightly lower salary but promises a better work-life balance and is conveniently located closer to your home. Describe in detail how you would utilize the utility approach to make a decision in this situation. (5 marks)
- b) Discuss the role of the framing effect and emotions in decision making. Provide examples to support your arguments. (10 marks)

2.5 Problem-solving is an integral part of our daily lives, involving both theoretical inquiries into mental processes and practical applications.

- a) What is a 'problem'? (5 marks)
- b) Explain the creative problem-solving process, providing a real-life example to illustrate each stage. (10 marks)

2.6 Write an essay discussing the concept of heuristics in everyday life, their advantages, and disadvantages. Provide real-life examples to illustrate how heuristics influence decision-making and judgment in various situations and analyse the benefits and drawbacks of relying on heuristics. (15 marks)

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