



**UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG**  
**FACULTY OF EDUCATION**  
**SPECIAL EXAMINATION 2017**

PROGRAMME: BED HONOURS  
MODULE: EDUCATIONAL THEORY B  
CODE: EDT0027  
TIME: 120 MIN  
MARKS: 100  
EXAMINERS: PROF G VAN DER WESTHUIZEN and MR A MAVUGARA  
MODERATOR: DR M LETSEKA (UNISA)

(This paper consists of 3 pages)

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**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Answer **two** questions from Section A and **two** questions from Section B.  
Answer each Section in a separate examination book.
2. Read the instructions in each section carefully.
3. Please note that credit will be given to use of practical examples in all answers to clarify your understanding and argument.
4. Enjoy the paper!

**SECTION A**

**Answer this section in your first examination book.**

**ANSWER TWO OF THE THREE QUESTIONS IN THIS SECTION:**

**Question 1**

Discuss in detail the theories of cognitive development with specific reference to Piaget and Vygotsky. Consider the similarities and differences of these theories in your discussion. Clarify the educational implications of each theory by illustrating the kinds of barriers that the learners experience and how they may influence their development.

Illustrate with specific examples what educators can do to support learners in their cognitive development. (25)

### **Question 2**

Educators play a crucial role in learners' development and they are tasked to deal with learning and development difficulties in an inclusive manner. Critically discuss 5 barriers to learning and development and describe ways in which you could address these barriers. (25)

### **Question 3**

In the Western academic tradition Bronfenbrenner had a significant influence in shaping our understanding of how different levels of system in the social context interact in the process of child development. Discuss the underlying principles of this theory with reference to the different systems of child development. Explain the educational relevance of this theory. (25)

## **SECTION B**

**Answer this section in your second examination book.**

**ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS.**

### **QUESTION 4**

Describe your understanding of socio-cultural theory of learning with reference to key Vygotskian ideas/concepts. Illustrate your understanding with reference to practical examples. Indicate how this theoretical perspective may be used in critical ways by education practitioners to bring about improved learning attainment and learning equity. (25)

### **QUESTION 5**

Describe the main tenets of socio-cultural theory of learning. Evaluate the relevance of this theoretical approach to the understanding of learning, in terms of relevance to education in your domain of specialization, as well as in terms of the notions of learning equity and indigenous knowledge. (25)

**QUESTION 6**

Describe the nature of learning conversations and clarify with reference to specific forms/examples, the social and cultural dimensions of such conversations. Refer to examples in your teaching domain/field of specialization. (25)

