Please obtain a receipt from the study centre for the assignments submitted and retain it. Also keep a photocopy of the assignments with you. The Study Centre will return the assignments to you after they are evaluated. The completed assignment should be sent only to the Coordinator of the Study Centre allotted to you.

Following instructions are to be carefully followed before writing the assignments:

1. You will find it useful to keep the following points in mind:
   - **i. Planning:** Read the assignments carefully. Go through the Units on which they are based. Make some points regarding each question and then re-arrange these in a logical order.
   - **ii. Organisation:** Read the study material carefully, analyze it, and then preparea rough outline of your answer. Give adequate attention to your introduction and conclusion. Make sure that your answer:
     a) is logical and coherent;
     b) has clear connections between sentences and paragraphs;
     c) is written correctly giving adequate consideration to your expression, style and presentation
   - **iii. Presentation:** Once you are satisfied with your answers, you can write down the final version for submission. Write each answer neatly with proper spacing, and underline the points you wish to emphasize. Make sure that the answer is around the suggested word limit.
2. UsesA4 size ruled paper for your response and tie all the pages carefully. Allow a 4 cm margin on the left and leave some space between each answer. This will facilitate the evaluator to write useful comments in the margin at appropriate places.
3. ***Answers should be in your own handwriting.*** Do not print or type the answers. Do not copy your answers from the study material sent to you by the University or from other learners. If you copy, you will get zero marks for the respective question.
4. You need to attach a copy of the TMA with the completed assignment before submitting it.
5. In case you have requested for a change of Study Centre, you should submit your Tutor Marked Assignments only to the original Study Centre until the change of Study Centre is notified by the University.
6. If you find that there is any factual error in evaluation of your assignments, e.g., any portion of assignment response has not been evaluated or total of score recorded on assignment response is in correct, you should approach the coordinator of your study center for correction and transmission of correct score to headquarters.

Wish you all the best!

Discipline of Psychology
SOSS, IGNOU, New Delhi

GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY (BPCG171)
Tutor Marked Assignments (TMA)

Course Code: BPCG 171
Assignment Code: Asst /TMA /2026-27
Total Marks: 100

NOTE:
There are three Sections in the Assignment. You have to answer all questions in the Sections.

Assignment - I

Answer the following in about 500 words each. (2x20=40)

1. Discuss the meaning, types of neurons and nerve impulse. Explain the structure and functions of nervous system. 20

2. Elaborate upon the different types and theories of motivation. 20

Assignment - II

Answer the following questions in about 250 words each. (3x10=30)

3. Discuss the various theories of intelligence. 10
4. Elaborate upon the various principles of Gestalt. 10
5. Explain the models of memory. 10

Assignment - III

Answer the following questions in about 100 words each. (6x5=30)

6. Work and organization. 6
7. Perception. 6
8. Theories of emotions. 6
9. Thinking. 6
10. Jean Piaget's theory. 6

1. Discuss the meaning, types of neurons and nerve impulse. Explain the structure and functions of nervous system. 20

Answer

Meaning and basic structure of a neuron

A neuron is a specialised, electrically excitable cell that receives information, processes it and communicates with other neurons, muscles or glands. It is the functional unit of the nervous system. Although neurons vary considerably in size and appearance, a typical neuron has three major parts. The cell body or soma contains the nucleus and the machinery for protein production and cell maintenance. Dendrites are branching processes that usually receive signals from neighbouring cells. The axon carries impulses away from the cell body towards terminal branches, where messages are transmitted across synapses. Many axons are covered by myelin, an insulating layer formed by Schwann cells in the peripheral nervous system and oligodendrocytes in the central nervous system. Gaps called nodes of Ranvier help electrical signals travel efficiently.

Types of neurons

Neurons can be classified by function. Sensory or afferent neurons carry information from receptors in the eyes, skin, ears and other organs towards the central nervous system. Motor or efferent neurons carry commands from the central nervous system to muscles or glands; the withdrawal of a hand from heat ultimately requires such motor signals. Interneurons connect and integrate incoming and outgoing information, particularly within the brain and spinal cord. They are crucial for reflexes, learning and decision making.

A structural classification distinguishes multipolar neurons, with many dendrites and one axon, common among motor neurons and interneurons; bipolar neurons, with one main dendritic and one axonal process, found in specialised sensory systems such as the retina; and pseudounipolar neurons, whose single process divides into peripheral and central branches, typical of many sensory neurons in spinal ganglia. Structural and functional classifications are related but not interchangeable.