* You need to submit the assignments within the stipulated time for being eligible to appear in the term-end examination.

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, analyse it, and then prepare a 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 emphasise. Make sure that the answer is around the suggested word limit.
2. Use A4 size ruled paper for your response and tie all the pages carefully. Allow a four 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 incorrect, 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

FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY (BPCE142)

Tutor Marked Assignments (TMA)

Course Code: BPCE142
Assignment Code: Asst /TMA /July 2026- January 2027
Total Marks: 100

NOTE: All assignments are compulsory.

Instructions:

1. Have a title page. Include details like Name, Enrolment number, Email id, Regional Centre, Study Centre, Programme Title and code, Course title and code.
2. Use A4 size paper for the tutorial (ruled/ bank).
3. For making tables, blank pages can be used and tables/ graphs (if any) to be drawn in pencil.
4. Content should not be plagiarised.

Assignment I

Answer the following questions in about 500 words each. Each question carries 20 marks.

2 x 20 = 40

1. Explain personality testing. Describe personality testing in the context of forensic psychology, focusing on some of the commonly used personality assessment scales.

2. Describe the psychological theories applied to criminal psychology.

Assignment II

Answer the following questions in about 250 words each. Each question carries 10 marks.

3 x 10 = 30

3. Describe the risk factors contributing to offending behavior.

4. Describe the polygraph test as a tool for eyewitness assessment.

5. Application of forensic psychology in policy formulation and decision-making.

Assignment III

Answer the following questions in about 100 words each. Each question carries 6 marks.

5 x 6= 30

6. Types of crimes
7. Amicus curiae brief
8. Police stress
9. Forensic psychologist as researcher
10. Heinous crimes

1. Explain personality testing. Describe personality testing in the context of forensic psychology, focusing on some of the commonly used personality assessment scales.

Answer

Meaning and purpose of personality testing

Personality testing is the systematic assessment of relatively enduring patterns of thinking, feeling and behaving. It examines traits such as emotional stability, impulsivity, hostility, social confidence and conscientiousness, as well as psychological symptoms that may affect functioning. A test translates responses or observed behaviour into scores interpreted with the help of reliability studies, norms and a clear assessment purpose. Personality assessment is not the same as a diagnosis: a trait score indicates a tendency, whereas a clinical diagnosis requires additional evidence and established criteria.

In forensic psychology, assessment is conducted within a legal setting. A psychologist may be asked to examine psychological functioning relevant to a particular legal question, such as violence-risk formulation, treatment needs, response style, capacity-related concerns or adjustment in custody. The referral question determines the instrument. No personality inventory by itself establishes that someone committed an offence, is telling the truth or will certainly offend again. The examiner combines test findings with interviews, history, case records and behavioural observations.

Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory

The Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI) family is among the best-known structured self-report measures of personality and psychopathology. The MMPI-2, MMPI-2-RF and newer MMPI-3 differ in their scales and normative systems; they should not be treated as interchangeable forms. They assess patterns such as emotional distress, thought disturbance, behavioural dysregulation, suspiciousness and interpersonal difficulty. Forensic evaluators find the validity scales especially useful because examinees may exaggerate problems, minimise symptoms or answer inconsistently for reasons related to legal incentives. Such scales identify unusual response patterns; they do not automatically prove intentional malingering or deception. For example, a person facing sentencing might under-report substance problems, while another seeking clinical accommodation might over-report symptoms. A cautious psychologist considers literacy, language, culture and the surrounding evidence before interpreting the profile.