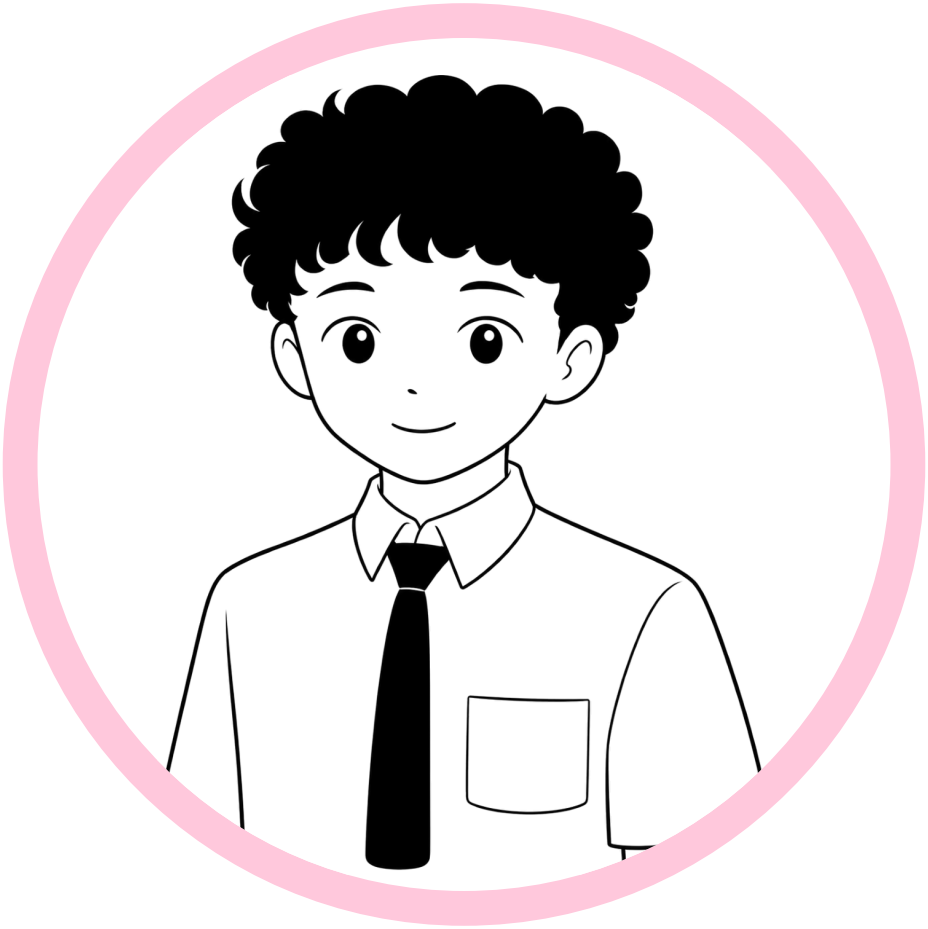
AQA A-LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY · 7182

PSYCHOLOGY



EXAM QUESTION PACK

3.2.1 THE COGNITIVE APPROACH

SCORE	PERCENTAGE
/70	%

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Q1.

Which of the following statements about the cognitive approach is **FALSE?**

Shade **one** box only.

A Inferences about internal mental processes are made on the basis of behaviour. ⬭

B Internal mental processes are studied scientifically. ⬭

C Mental processes are studied directly by making inferences. ⬭

D Theoretical and computer models are used to help explain mental processes. ⬭

(Total 1 mark)

Q2.

We use schema when we process information from the world around us.

Explain **one** reason why using schema might be useful when processing information from the world around us, and explain one reason why using schema might not be useful when processing information from the world around us.

(Total 4 marks)

Q3.

Which of the following best describes the aim of cognitive neuroscience?
Shade **one** box only.

A to relate mental processes to brain structures ⬭

B to relate theoretical models to mental processes ⬭

C to use biological terms to explain behaviour ⬭

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D to use computers to explain mental processes ⬭

(Total 1 mark)

Q4.

Adil has just started studying the cognitive approach in psychology but does not understand when his teacher tells him that cognitive psychologists use the results of experiments to make inferences about behaviour.

Write a brief explanation of inference that would help Adil to understand what his teacher means.

_____

_____

_____

_____

(Total 2 marks)

Q5.

Outline **two** features of the cognitive approach. Explain **two** limitations of the cognitive approach.

(Total 8 marks)

Q6.

Read the item and then answer the question that follows.

Psychologists investigating theoretical models of cognitive processing study human cognitive processing. They sometimes give participants problems to solve then ask them about the experience afterwards. Typical participant responses are as follows:

Response A: 'There were too many things to think about at the same time.'

Response B: 'I had to do one task at a time, then do the next task, and so on.'

Briefly suggest how **each** of these responses might inform psychologists investigating models of human cognitive processing.

_____

_____

_____

_____

(Total 2 marks)

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Q7.

A cognitive psychologist investigating how memory works gave participants the same word list to recall in one of two conditions. All the words were of equal difficulty.

Condition 1: Ten participants recalled the words in the same room in which they had learned the words.

Condition 2: Ten different participants recalled the words in a room that was not the same room as that in which they had learned the words.

The following results were obtained:

Mean values and standard deviations for Condition 1 and Condition 2 in a memory experiment.

	Condition 1	**Condition 2**
Mean	15.9	10.6
Standard deviation	3.78	1.04

(a) Why are the standard deviation values found in the study above useful descriptive statistics for the cognitive psychologist?

_____

_____

_____

_____

(2)

(b) Outline **one** problem of studying internal mental processes like memory ability by conducting experiments such as that described in part (a) above.

_____

_____

_____

_____

(2)

(Total 4 marks)

Q8.

Read the item and then answer the question that follows.

In a laboratory study of problem-solving, cognitive psychologists asked participants to solve problems presented in different colours of ink. They found that it took longer to solve problems presented in green ink, than it did to solve problems presented in other colours. They inferred that the mental processing of problems is made more difficult when a problem is presented in

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green ink.

Explain what is meant by ‘inference’ in relation to this study.

(Total 2 marks)

Q9.

Briefly explain **one** strength and **one** limitation of the cognitive approach in psychology.

(Total 4 marks)

Q10.

Outline what is meant by cognitive neuroscience and describe **one** practical application of cognitive neuroscience.

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(Total 6 marks)

Q11.

Outline key features of the cognitive approach in psychology. Compare the cognitive approach with the psychodynamic approach.

(Total 16 marks)

Q12.

Describe the cognitive approach in psychology.

Evaluate the research methods used by cognitive psychologists.

(Total 16 marks)

Q13.

Give **two** assumptions of the cognitive approach. For **each** assumption, illustrate your answer with reference to a topic in psychology. Use a different topic for each assumption.

(Total 4 marks)