

AQA Psychology A-level

Option 1: Cognition and Development Flashcards

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Explain Piaget's theory of maturation.



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Piaget proposed the theory of maturation- the idea that children do not know less than adults, but that they think differently from them, and when they grow older, the way that they think changes.



How is disequilibrium created?



How is disequilibrium created?

It is created when existing schemas are insufficient in helping a child make sense of the world around them. This can also occur when new situations not inline with schemas that are encountered.



What creates motivation to learn?



What creates motivation to learn?

Motivation to learn is created when disequilibrium arises, to try and reduce this children learn new things with the hope that the new information they learn can be assimilated to increase their understanding.



When does accommodation occur?



When does accommodation occur?

This occurs when new experiences that are radically different from our existing schemas are used to create new or completely change our existing schemas.



Define class inclusion.



Define class inclusion.

This is the idea that classifications have subsets.



List Piaget's four stages of Intellectual Development.



List Piaget's four stages of Intellectual Development.

- Sensorimotor (0-2 years)
- Pre-operational (2-7 years)
- Concrete (7-11 years)
- Formal Operations (11+)



What is a syllogism?



What is a syllogism?

This a form of reasoning in which a conclusion is drawn from two given or assumed propositions.

E.g. 'All yellow cats have two heads. I have a yellow cat called Charlie. How many heads does Charlie have?'

The answer would be two, which can be inferred from the information given.



Describe Piaget and Inhelder's 1956 study on egocentrism.



Describe Piaget and Inhelder's 1956 study on egocentrism.

Children in the study were shown model mountains with different features- either a cross, a house or snow. Those of the children that were in the preoperational stage found it difficult to select a picture that showed a view contrary to their own.



List Wood's features of scaffolding.



List Wood's features of scaffolding.

- Recruitment
- Reduction in degrees of freedom
- Direction Maintenance



How are cultural differences in learning explained?



How are cultural differences in learning explained?

Learning occurs through observation of what is around us. Depending on where an individual is from, they will have different experiences, causing various types of learning.



What is the ZPD?



What is the ZPD?

ZPD stands for the Zone of Proximal Development and is a stage which is the gap between current capabilities and knowledge, and future knowledge and capabilities.



Describe Baillargeon and Graber's study.



Describe Baillargeon and Graber's study.

Infants were shown a short or a tall rabbit passing behind a screen with a window. The rabbit could only be seen passing the window if they were tall, but not if they were short (possible situation). In an impossible condition, neither rabbit could be seen.

The infants looked at the possible situation for a shorter time than the impossible situation, this was presumed to be because they were surprised at the impossible.



What progressive strategies are used to scaffold learning?



What progressive strategies are used to scaffold learning?

- Demonstration
- Preparation for child
- Indication of materials
- Specific verbal instruction
- General Prompting



What are mirror neurons?



What are mirror neurons?

These are neurons that respond to the activity of other neurons.



Define cognitive.



Define cognitive.

This relates to mental processes such as perception, memory and reasoning.



What is PRS?



What is PRS?

PRS stands for Physical Reasoning System and this is an innate system proposed by Baillargeon that we are supposedly born with that helps us to learn details of the physical world more quickly.



List Selman's levels of perspective taking.



List Selman's levels of perspective taking.

Social Information Role Taking

Self-reflective role-taking

Mutual role-taking



What is violation of expectation research?



What is violation of expectation research?

This is research used to investigate infant abilities, this is done by comparing infant reactions to expected and unexpected events which allows inferences about their cognitive capabilities to be made.



What is ASD?



What is ASD?

ASD stands for Autistic Spectrum Disorder and is a disorder in which an individual experiences problems related to social and cognitive skills, such as difficulty understanding intention, emotion and the theory of mind.



How do mirror neurons lead to ASD?



How do mirror neurons lead to ASD?

According to Ramachandran and Oberman (2006), having a damaged mirror system can lead to ASD. This is because they are unable to imitate and understand the social behaviour of others, leading to ASD.

