

## Mark schemes

## Q1.

[AO1 = 2]

**2 marks** for a clear and coherent outline of one role of schema according to the cognitive approach.

**1 mark** for a muddled or limited outline of one role of schema according to the cognitive approach.

**Possible content:**

- schema help us predict what will happen in our world based on previous experiences
- schema enable us to process vast amounts of information rapidly
- schema prevent us from becoming overwhelmed by environmental stimuli.

Credit other relevant content.

[2]

## Q2.

[AO1 = 6 AO3 = 6]

Level	Marks	Description
4	10-12	Knowledge of the cognitive approach is accurate and generally well detailed. Evaluation is effective. Minor detail and/or expansion is sometimes lacking. The answer is clear and coherent. Specialist terminology is used effectively.
3	7-9	Knowledge of the cognitive approach is evident but there are occasional inaccuracies/omissions. There is some effective evaluation. The answer is mostly clear and organised. Specialist terminology is mostly used appropriately.
2	4-6	Limited knowledge of the cognitive approach is present. Focus is mainly on description. Any evaluation is of limited effectiveness. The answer lacks clarity, accuracy and organisation in places. Specialist terminology is used inappropriately on occasions.
1	1-3	Knowledge of the cognitive approach is very limited. Evaluation is limited, poorly focused or absent. The answer as a whole lacks clarity, has many inaccuracies and is poorly organised. Specialist terminology is either absent or inappropriately used.
	0	No relevant content.

**Possible content:**

- behaviour is influenced by thoughts that can be both conscious and

- non-conscious – internal mental processes
- schema are the mental representations of experience and knowledge and understanding
- mental processes are a form of information processing which can be compared to that of a computer
- models can be used to provide testable theories about mental processing and these can be studied scientifically and inferences made
- cognition and biological processes can be integrated leading to cognitive neuroscience as a way forward to understanding human behaviour
- methodology – use of controlled experimentation – inference about mental processes on the basis of observed behaviour.

**Possible evaluation:**

- uses controlled experimentation so has scientific rigour
- the computer analogy is mechanistic which struggles to explain the irrationality seen in emotive responses
- the use of controlled environments lacks ecological validity meaning we may not get an understanding of how cognitive processes such as memory work in real life
- problems with inference such as subjective interpretation
- research from other approaches indicates factors other than internal mental events as causes of behaviour which are overlooked by the approach
- oversimplistic – the focus is often on individual mental processes and often does not explain how different mental processes work together
- real life application such as development of effective treatments such as CBT, to improving the reliability of eyewitness testimony etc
- comparisons with other approaches.

Credit other relevant material.

[12]

**Q3.**

[AO1 = 1]

**1 mark** for stating an appropriate assumption of the cognitive approach.

**Possible content:**

- internal mental processes can be studied
- mental processes can involve schema
- theoretical and computer models can be used
- it is possible to make inferences about mental processes (eg from models)
- neural mechanisms can be combined with cognitive processes in cognitive neuroscience.

Accept other valid assumptions.

[1]

**Q4.****[AO3 = 2]**

**2 marks** for a clear and coherent explanation of a strength of the cognitive approach.

**1 mark** for a muddled/limited explanation.

**Possible strength:**

- real life application, eg contributions to the field of AI; contribution to improving the reliability of eye witness testimony; contribution to effective treatments (CBT) for depression/phobias/OCD
- mainly uses experimental/objective/controlled methods to research so has scientific rigour
- comparison to other approaches, eg soft deterministic approach is more reasonable than the hard determinism of the behaviourist approach.

Credit other relevant content.

**[2]****Q5.****[AO1 = 3]**

**3 marks** for a clear and coherent explanation of one assumption of the cognitive approach with full elaboration.

**2 marks** for an explanation with some detail.

**1 mark** for a limited/muddled explanation.

**Possible assumptions:**

- psychology should be the study of internal mental processes, eg memory, perception, etc
- the importance of the role of schema
- it is appropriate to make inferences about cognitive processes
- the use of models of explanation – theoretical and computer
- the possibility of combining cognitive processes and biological structures (cognitive neuroscience).

Credit other relevant assumptions.

**[3]**

**Q6.**

**[AO3 = 3]**

**3 marks** for a clear and coherent explanation of one limitation of the cognitive approach.

**2 marks** for an explanation with some detail.

**1 mark** for a limited/muddled explanation.

**Possible limitations:**

- reliance on inference which is not objective
- machine reductionism of computer modelling
- use of scientific methods: limitations of these
- use of case studies: limitations of these.

Credit comparisons with other approaches if used to support explanation of limitation.

Credit other relevant information.

**[3]**