

Cognitive Approach – Questions by Topic

Q1.

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)

Q2.

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)

Q3.

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 green ink.

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

(Total 2 marks)

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.

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)

Q6.

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

(Total 8 marks)

Q7.

Describe the cognitive approach in psychology.

Evaluate the research methods used by cognitive psychologists.

(Total 16 marks)