

COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT ESSAY PACK

For CIE A-levels Psychology Paper 3 : Clinical Psychology

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Q. Describe and evaluate Piaget's theory of cognitive development. [20 marks]

Ans.

Piaget proposed that cognitive development occurs in four universal stages. These are

The first is the sensorimotor stage that occurs from 0 to 2 years of age. It

Second is the preoperational stage from 2 to 7 years. 'Operational' refers to

Third is the concrete operational stage from 7 to 11 years. The three types of reasoning

Fourth is the formal operational stage from 11 years onwards. It is characterised by

One strength of Piaget's theory is its strong grounding in research. Egocentricity, for example,

However, these classic studies have been challenged. For example, Hughes et al. have shown that pre-operational children are not

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. Both these studies showed that Piaget used research tasks that were not relatable to young children and therefore, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Nevertheless, Piaget's theory has shown the strength of practical application. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

However, this approach underestimates [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Q. Mona is teaching her younger brother Arno to count.

Pointing to Arno's toy cars, Mona says out loud the numbers one to five. Mona says to Amo, "Now, you have a go. Point with your finger at the cars." As Arno tries to count, Mona says, "Well done, Arno! Do it again." After his sister's help, Arno can now count to five easily.

Discuss Vygotsky's theory of cognitive development. Refer to Arno and Mona in your answer. [20 marks]

Ans.

In contrast to Piaget's classic theory of cognitive development which proposed that [redacted] [redacted] nt, developmentalist Vygotsky proposed that learning is social process. Children are born [redacted]

According to Vygotsky, children repeatedly enter a zone of proximal development (ZPD), [redacted]

Later, Wood and Middleton elaborated on the concept by outlining [redacted]

In the given scenario, Mona is the older sibling MKO helping Arno to cross his ZPD. Arno needs [redacted]

One strength of Vygotsky's theory is that it has high practical usefulness. Unlike [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. Additionally, there is empirical evidence for this
idea. For example, Keer and Verhaeghe showed that [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

However, a limitation of the theory is that there is evidence suggesting that Vygotsky has
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Q. Describe and evaluate Baillergeon's violation of expectation (VOE) research.

[20 marks]

Ans.

In his classic theory of cognitive development, Piaget proposed that object permanence

. Developmentalist Baillergeon disagreed and proposed that

VOE involves showing infants impossible events that cannot occur if objects are permanent and then assessing

. This is illustrated by Baillergeon's classic drawbridge experiment.

Five-and-a-half month infants were first habituated

Baillergeon also used VOE to demonstrate related physical reasoning abilities

One strength of Baillergeon's VOE research is that it has used highly controlled methods. For example, across her experiments, she made infants

Another strength is that the validity of the VOE has been

[REDACTED]

However, one limitation of VOE is that it goes against

[REDACTED]

Another limitation is that VOE does not necessarily indicate that a child has object permanence.
Object permanence is the ability to *understand*

[REDACTED]

Lesson prepared by:

Jyotika Varmani

CIE A Levels Psychology School Teacher, Modern College, Mauritius
CIE A Levels Psychology Subject Expert, Podar International, Mumbai
AQA GCSE and A Levels Psychology Tutor, Expert Tutors, UAE
AQA A Levels Psychology Tutor, Higher OTS Academy, UAE
AQA A Levels Psychology Tutor, Gritty Tech, India
AQA A Levels Psychology Tutor, Aurora ELearning, UAE
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WhatsApp: **+919892507784** OR

e-mail: jyotika@excellingpsychology.com

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