

1 Evaluate one or more studies related to clinical biases in diagnosis. [22]

Ans.

While diagnosing disorders, clinicians may lack neutrality as their opinions

that have investigated

Two prominent studies

Schizophrenia is a severe psychotic disorder characterised by

This possibility was investigated by Longnecker et al. More than 200 thousand participants

A strength of Longnecker et al. is its representation of

However, a weakness of the study is that it is only statistical and lacks the ability to

Confirmation bias has also been found to be a possibility in diagnosis of schizophrenia. It refers to

Rosenhan conducted a field study in which

A strength of Rosenhan's study was its realism. Observations were done in

However, there are weaknesses in the design of the study. There were only

Overall, studies of clinical biases such as gender and confirmation biases are compelling as

2 Discuss one or more explanations for one or more disorders. [22]

Ans.

Depression is a highly prevalent psychological disorder characterised by low mood, lack of sleep and

. The present essay discusses a prominent

Vulnerabilities to disorders can often be inherited through genes, as established by family studies showing


Kendler et al. sought to investigate

The genetic explanation proves to be very useful in understanding individual differences


Yet, the explanation is incomplete by itself as it is apparent that

Some researchers have taken a relatively more holistic view of depression through the lens

These researchers first identified a candidate gene for depression - the 5-HTT




The diathesis-stress model brings about the exact role of genes in depression. Genes do not



. Yet, possibilities
for alternative explanations remain open.



In sum, the genetic explanation of depression has been primarily useful in understanding



3 Discuss the effectiveness of one or more treatments for one or more disorders. [22]

Ans.

Depression is a highly prevalent psychological disorder characterised by low mood, lack of sleep and appetite,

. The present essay discusses biological treatment, specifically

It first argues that

It then counterargues that

Antidepressants are a group of drugs that largely target serotonin,

. These have been effective in treating the disorder, as demonstrated by Kroenke et al, as follows-

The effectiveness of antidepressants have been established using methodologically sound studies, increasing

This treatment also has excellent application for patients unable to

Nevertheless, improvement in symptoms can be attributed to a placebo effect. Patients can show improvement only because

Kirsch et al. collected published and unpublished data on antidepressant trials from the FDA (Food and Drug Administration). All studies had made use of

Kirsch et al. used sound methodology - collecting studies from a credible source like the

However, there have been criticisms of such claims. Meta-analyses provide averages of results, not

Overall, it is clear that antidepressants hold great promise in

What has been a concern is the

4 Discuss the role of peers and/or play in cognitive and/or social development. [22]

Ans.

Play, or the act of doing something to

. This essay discusses how play can speed up the process of overcoming cognitive egocentrism, as demonstrated in the study by Nedospasova. It then discusses how it can help them develop problem-solving, as shown in the study by Sylva, Bruner and Genova.

Cognitive egocentrism refers to the lack of ability to take

Nedospasova investigated how play can help children overcome such egocentrism in the preoperational stage itself. They presented preschool children with

Using play as a strategy to overcome egocentrism in children by more knowledgeable others as in the Nedospasova study directly aligns with reputed developmentalist Vygotsky's concept of scaffolding. It suggests that

. Nevertheless, in the actual world play might not work in the way that it does in studies. Play has a more

Nevertheless, 'play' has been investigated in its more spontaneous sense for how it could encourage cognitive development in other research. Object manipulation involves

The researchers presented pre-school children with tasks such as presenting them with two short sticks to reach food, neither long enough to

The potential of play for problem solving has excellent practical application. It is common observation that many children, especially of preschool-age find

Yet, certain doubts remain open as to the generalisability of such findings. For one, even though the play is spontaneous,

In all, play indeed encourages cognitive development by promoting skills of various types in preschool children. This is undeniable,

5 Discuss one or more factors influencing the development of gender identity. [22]

Ans.

Gender identity refers to one's sense of being male, female or s [REDACTED]. The present essay discusses the role of two factors - gender socialisation by parents; and cultural norms on gender identity. Studies by Smith and Lloyd, and Margaret Mead are used to further the discussion.

Sex is biological - as genes determine whether an individual is anatomically classified as male or female. However, gender is [REDACTED]

Parents' tendency to gender socialise was investigated in a study by Smith and Lloyd. Mothers of 5-to 10-month old infants were [REDACTED]

Gender socialisation by parents can help children acculturate easily, promoting a sense of [REDACTED]

Also, with respect to methodological considerations, while studies like Smith and Lloyd credibly support gender socialisation by parents, they also lack [REDACTED]

Factors like gender socialisation by parents emerge from the larger factor of

While some researchers have believed that gender reflects universal temperamental differences between the sexes - with males being aggressive and females passive, anthropologists like Margaret Mead have cast doubt on this,

A strength of culture being a factor in gender identity is the sense of stability that it provides to individuals. For example, in a culture like the

However, they also suffer from being

In conclusion, gender socialisation and culture influence gender identity development. The contribution of these factors is

6 Discuss one or more factors influencing brain development. [22]

Ans.

Brain development investigates how changes in [REDACTED]. Several factors influence the course of brain development with early environmental deprivation and maturation being two prominent ones. These will be discussed in the essay with reference to the Chugani et al. and Giedd studies supporting them.

While the brain develops naturally according to genetic unfolding, environmental enrichment can

[REDACTED]

The researchers investigated the impact of early development on brain development on Romanian orphans. Using PET technology, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Investigating deprivation as a factor in brain development has excellent practical application in the form of early intervention. Studies done on Romanian orphans like [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. However, it can be difficult to establish a clear cut causal relation between deprivation and brain development given possible confounding. In correlational studies like those by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Brain changes occur with age, even in the absence of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This has been demonstrated in Giedd's study.

Conducted with a sample of more than [REDACTED]

Maturation as a factor in brain development has a big merit of predictive power. Knowing, for example, that [REDACTED]

Nevertheless, attributing brain development to only maturation is a reductionist approach. Genes do interact with [REDACTED]

In all, both natural maturation and environmental deprivation are bound to contribute to brain development. Both factors have been [REDACTED]

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