

Exam Practice Questions – Development

Early Brain Development

1. a) Identify one part of the brain that has been shown to affect the development of movement. [1 mark]
b) Use your knowledge of the part of the brain identified in part (a) to explain how it affects movement. [3 marks]
2. Briefly explain the function of the thalamus. [3 marks]
3. Briefly explain the function of the brain stem. [3 marks]
4. Briefly explain the function of the cerebellum. [3 marks]
5. Briefly explain the function of the cortex. [3 marks]
6. Explain what is meant by autonomic functions. [3 marks]
7. With reference to at least one example outline how nature and nurture may affect the development of the growing brain. [6 marks]

Piaget's Theory of Cognitive Development

1. Define the term *cognitive development*. (2 marks)
2. Explain what is meant by the term *schema*. [2 marks]
3. Explain what is meant by the term *assimilation*. [2 marks]
4. Explain what is meant by the term *accommodation*. [2 marks]
5. Distinguish between the processes of assimilation and accommodation. [3 marks]
6. Describe the two processes through which our schema develop (4 marks)
7. Explain how accommodation might occur when a child recognises that a small fluttering creature is not a bird, but is told it is a butterfly. [3 marks]
8. Explain **two** criticisms of Piaget's theory of cognitive development. [4/6 marks]
9. Describe and evaluate Piaget's theory of cognitive development. [9 marks]

Piaget's Theory: Stages of Cognitive Development

1. Name the **four** stages of development proposed by Piaget. [4 marks]
2. Outline the sensori-motor stage of Piaget's theory of cognitive development. [3 marks]
3. Outline the pre-operational stage of Piaget's theory of cognitive development. [3 marks]
4. Outline the concrete operational stage of Piaget's theory of cognitive development. [3 marks]
5. Outline the formal operational stage of Piaget's theory of cognitive development. [3 marks]
6. Briefly explain the difference between a pre-operational and concrete operational child's thinking. Use an example to explain your answer. [5 marks]
7. Define what Piaget meant by the term 'object permanence' (2 marks)
8. Define what Piaget meant by the term 'egocentrism' (2 marks)
9. Define what is meant by the term 'conservation' (2 marks)
10. Define what is meant by the term 'logical thinking' (2 marks)
11. Define what is meant by the term 'hypothetical thinking' (2 marks)
12. Use your knowledge of conservation to explain how the thinking of a 7-year-old child could differ from a 5-year-old child. [3 marks]
13. Piaget's stage theory has been criticised. Explain **one** evaluation of Piaget's stage theory. [3 marks]

McGarrigle and Donaldson's 'Naughty Teddy Study'

1. Describe the aim of McGarrigle and Donaldson's study [2 marks]
2. Describe the method used in McGarrigle and Donaldson's study [5 marks]
3. Identify the independent variable of McGarrigle and Donaldson's study [1 mark]
4. Identify the dependent variable of McGarrigle and Donaldson's study [1 mark]

5. Describe the procedure of McGarrigle and Donaldson's study [4 marks]
6. Describe the results of McGarrigle and Donaldson's study [6 marks]
7. Describe McGarrigle and Donaldson's conclusions [2 marks]
8. Explain **two** criticisms of McGarrigle and Donaldson's study [6 marks]
9. Describe what McGarrigle and Donaldson's 'naughty teddy' study shows about the development of conservation. [3 marks]
10. Describe and evaluate McGarrigle and Donaldson's 'naughty teddy' study. In your answer include the method used, the results obtained and the conclusion drawn. [9 marks]

Hughes' 'Policeman Doll Study'

1. Describe the aim of Hughes' 'policeman doll' study [2 marks]
2. Describe the method used in Hughes' 'policeman doll' study [5 marks]
3. Identify the independent variable of Hughes' 'policeman doll' study [1 mark]
4. Identify the dependent variable of Hughes' 'policeman doll' study [1 mark]
5. Describe the procedure of Hughes' 'policeman doll' study [4 marks]
6. Briefly outline what the participants were asked to do in Hughes' 'policeman doll' study. [2 marks]
7. Describe the results of Hughes' 'policeman doll' study [6 marks]
8. Describe Hughes' 'policeman doll' conclusions [2 marks]
9. Explain **two** criticisms of Hughes' 'policeman doll' study [6 marks]
10. Describe what Hughes' 'policeman doll' study shows about the development of egocentrism. [3 marks]
11. Describe and evaluate Hughes' 'policeman doll' study. In your answer include the method used, the results obtained and the conclusion drawn. [9 marks]
12. Psychologists who study cognitive development sometimes collect quantitative data.
Outline the method and results of a study in which the psychologist

studying cognitive development collected quantitative data.

In your answer, explain how the data was quantitative. [6 marks]

Application to Education

1. Briefly explain how **one** of Piaget's stages could be applied to education. [2 marks]
2. Define what is meant by the term 'readiness' (2 marks)
3. A teacher would like advice on the activities that might be suitable for children aged 5. Recommend the types of activities that these students will be able to complete and why (3 marks)
4. A teacher would like advice on the activities that might be suitable for children aged 9. Recommend the types of activities that these students will be able to complete (3 marks)
5. A teacher would like advice on the activities that might be suitable for children aged 15. Recommend the types of activities that these students will be able to complete (3 marks)
6. Define what Piaget meant by the term 'discovery' (2 marks)
7. Explain why Piaget felt that 'discovery' was important (2 marks)
8. The application of Piaget's theory to education has been criticised. Use your knowledge of psychology to evaluate this application. [5 marks]
9. Describe and evaluate the application of Piaget's stages in education. [9 marks]

Effects of Learning on Development

Dweck's Mindset Theory of Learning

1. Identify the two types of mindset that Dweck identified. (2 marks)
2. Describe what Dweck meant by a 'growth mindset'. (2 marks)
3. Describe what Dweck meant by a 'fixed mindset'. (2 marks)
4. Describe one difference between a growth mindset and a fixed mindset. (3 marks)
5. Using an example of a behaviour, distinguish between a fixed and growth mindset. [4 marks]

6. Suggest two ways that someone could change from having a growth mindset to a fixed mindset. (4 marks)
7. Suggest one reason why adopting a growth mindset might be more beneficial than having a fixed mindset. (2 marks)
8. Describe Dweck's learning theory of learning. (5 marks)
9. Explain **two** criticisms of Dweck's theory of development. (6 marks)
10. Outline and evaluate Dweck's mindset theory of learning. [9 marks]
11. Imagine you have been asked to conduct an interview to investigate fixed and growth mindsets. Use your knowledge of psychology to describe how you would do this. In your answer explain:
 - How you would select participants to take part in your study.
 - One question you could ask to test the difference between mindsets. [3 marks]
12. Explain what is meant by the term 'praise'. [2 marks]
13. Explain what is meant by the term 'self-efficacy'. [2 marks]
14. Describe the role of both praise **and** self-efficacy beliefs in learning. [4 marks]
15. Using an example, explain what is meant by 'self-efficacy'. [3 marks]
16. Outline **two** criticisms of the role of praise and self-efficacy beliefs in learning. [4 marks]

Willingham's Learning Theory

1. Explain what is meant by the term 'learning styles' [2 marks]
2. Identify the **three** types of learning styles. [3 marks]
3. Explain what is meant by the term 'verbalisers'. [3 marks]
4. Explain what is meant by the term 'visualisers'. [3 marks]
5. Distinguish between a visualiser and a verbaliser. [3 marks]
6. Explain what is meant by kinaesthetic learners. [3 marks]
7. Explain **one** criticism of research into learning styles. [3 marks]

8. The theory that people have different learning styles has been evaluated. Use your knowledge of psychology to evaluate learning styles. [5 marks]
9. Explain Willingham's beliefs about learning styles [3 marks]
10. Willingham has criticised the theory of learning styles. Briefly explain his criticism. [3 marks]
11. Explain Willingham's beliefs about meaning in relation to learning and memorising information [3 marks]
12. Explain Willingham's beliefs about the role of praise in relation to learning. [3 marks]
13. A student would like to revise for their psychology exam in the best way possible to ensure that they are prepared. Use Willingham's theory to advise them on how they can learn the information [3 marks]
14. Explain **two** criticisms of Willingham's theory of development [6 marks]
15. Describe and evaluate Willingham's learning theory. [9 marks]
16. You have been asked to create a questionnaire. This aim is to see if males or females are more likely to be visualisers or verbalisers. Describe how you would conduct this questionnaire. You need to include:
 - Questions you would use to decide whether a person is a visualiser or verbaliser.
 - **One** ethical issue that needs to be considered and how you will deal with the issue in this study.
 - **One** descriptive statistic that you would use and an explanation of how this would be calculated in this study. [8 marks]