

AQA Paper 3 Exam Analysis



COGNITION & DEVELOPMENT

2026

How violation of expectation has been tested (4)

Co-variables in correlation – scenario (2)

Level of measurement – scenario (3)

Choosing a statistical test – scenario (1)

Draw and label a scattergram – scenario (2)

Study where scaffolding was investigated – procedure and findings (4)

Research into conservation (8)

2025

Vygotsky's theory – scenario (4)

Evaluate research into perspective-taking (4)

Piaget's theory of cognitive development in the sensorimotor stage – scenario (16)

2024

Random allocation – scenario (3)

Conclusion from median data – scenario (2)

Method section of a psychological report (1)

Conservation tasks – scenario (2)

Mirror neurons in social cognition (8)

Vygotsky's theory of cognitive development (8)

2023

Piaget's conservation definition (2)

Strength & weakness Piaget's research into conservation (6)

Research into violation of expectations (8)

Theory of mind as an explanation for autism (8)

2022

Theories of cognitive development – scenario (8)

Theory of mind and Selman's levels of perspective-taking (16)

2021

Describe equilibration (4)

Theory of mind and the Sally-Anne study – scenario (4)

Research into object permanence (16)

2020

Piaget's concept of conservation (1)

Choice of statistical test and why - scenario (5)

Improving the study – scenario (2)

Selman's research on perspective-taking – scenario (8)

Vygotsky's theory of cognitive development and one/ more strengths (8)

2019

Role of the mirror neuron system in social cognition (8)

Piaget's research in relation to the pre-operational stage of intellectual development (16)

2018

Piaget's 'class inclusion' definition (2)

Theory of mind as an explanation for autism (6)

Stratified sample – scenario (4)

Debriefing statement – scenario (4)

Findings of Vygotsky's theory of cognitive development (8)

2017

Factors in the development of social cognition (2)

Write the full reference for a book - scenario (2)

Outline Piaget's theory about schema development (4)

Discuss what Baillargeon's research has told us about early infant abilities (16)

Specimen Practise Papers

One feature of what Piaget meant by 'egocentrism' (1)

Sketch a graph and label the axes (3)

What distribution does the graph show? (1)

One limitation of asking parents to rate their own children (2)

Violation of expectation (1)

Describe and evaluate Vygotsky's theory of cognitive development (16)

Briefly outline theory of mind as an explanation for autism (2)

Two limitations of theory of mind as an explanation for autism (6)

Discuss Piaget's and Vygotsky's views on the development of cognition (16)



* NOTE: Some of the topics have been removed so will not appear in exams from 2027 onwards,
see specification for details.



STUDY PSYCHOLOGY

• HELPING YOU ACHIEVE