<u>**Sample Answer**</u>

(a) Describe how the review by Memon and Higham (1999) highlights the effectiveness of the Cognitive Interview technique. (10 marks)

Memon & Higham (1999) is an article which critiques the Cognitive Interview (CI) as a method for investigating the reliability of statements both from witnesses and offenders. The discussion is organised around four themes which explore the nature of the CI and whether it should be rolled out as a more global technique for interviewing. In the first part, the effectiveness of various components of the CI; they examined the individual components of the Cognitive Interview. These are to mentally reinstate the context, change the order, report every detail and recall from a different perspective. Next was the relationship between the CI and other interviewing methods such as the Guided Memory Interview, the Standard Interview and the Structured Interview, this highlighted the effectiveness of the CI method when compared to these other techniques. Then they looked at the different measures of memory performance and what factors affect the reliability of our memory recall. Finally they discussed the effect of training quality on interviewer performance and showed that specific training in CI techniques can improve the accuracy of memory recall. They conclude that research into the effectiveness of the CI remains inconclusive and there is a need for further research investigating the particular effects the CI has on memory. Also that further research is needed on how the various elements of the CI work as it is not yet clear how the CI relates to other interviewing procedures. Also many interviewers differ in their ability and motivation to conduct a good interview. This review highlights the effectiveness of the Cognitive Interview as a technique for improving the reliability of eyewitness testimony. It shows the benefits of using this method over other standard practices in the police. If detectives are trained effectively in how to use this method, more reliable information can be gathered from both witnesses and offenders. This would reduce the amount of miscarriages of justice in the criminal system.