2.8 Improving Eyewitness Testimony: The Cognitive Interview: 10-minute Pack

AQA 7182 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 State one practical step police forces can take to reduce the risk that increased incorrect details from the CI will lead to wrongful conclusions, giving one short reason.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 Describe the 'reinstate the context' technique from the cognitive interview and explain how it helps an eyewitness recall events of a car crash scene.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

3 Outline two ways the enhanced cognitive interview attempts to reduce witness anxiety and interviewer distraction, and explain briefly why each would help improve recall.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 2.8 Improving Eyewitness Testimony: The Cognitive Interview: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

states a practical step, e.g. corroborate CI details with independent evidence, or audio/video record interviews, or flag uncorroborated details in reports oe	**B1**
gives a reason, e.g. corroboration prevents reliance on potentially incorrect CI details, or recordings allow later review and protection against suggestion oe	**B1**

Answer: Example answer: Corroborate CI-derived details with independent evidence, because this prevents investigators or courts relying on details that may be incorrect.

Question 2

states that witnesses are asked to mentally recreate the physical and emotional context of the original event oe	**B1**
explains that reinstating context provides environmental and internal cues that aid retrieval of stored memories oe	**B1**

Answer: Witnesses are asked to mentally recreate the scene and their feelings at the time, because restoring environmental and internal cues helps retrieval and improves recall of event details.

Question 3

identifies one interpersonal technique, e.g. establishing rapport and using open, non-leading questions oe	**M1**
explains how this reduces anxiety and helps recall, e.g. a calm rapport lowers stress so memory retrieval is less impaired and witness feels safer to report details oe	**A1**
identifies a second interpersonal technique, e.g. minimising interruptions and allowing the witness to speak without distraction oe	**M1**
explains how this helps recall, e.g. uninterrupted free recall preserves the witness's retrieval cues and prevents loss of focus, increasing correct detail reported oe	**A1**

Answer: Example answer: Enhanced CI builds rapport with the witness and uses open, non-leading questioning to reduce anxiety, which can improve access to memory. It also minimises interruptions and interviewer distraction so the witness can maintain retrieval cues and speak freely, reducing loss of detail. Both approaches make retrieval conditions more supportive and so can increase correct recall.

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