10.2 Cognitive, Psychodynamic and Social Explanations of Gender Development: 10-minute Pack

AQA 7182 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Explain one strength and one limitation of Kohlberg's cognitive-developmental theory of gender development, with reference to empirical evidence.

(Total for Question 1 is 4 marks)

2 Outline Kohlberg's cognitive-developmental theory of gender development, naming and briefly describing the three stages: gender identity, gender stability and gender constancy.

(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 10.2 Cognitive, Psychodynamic and Social Explanations of Gender Development: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

strength: developmental sequencing supported by evidence that children's gender-related behaviour changes with cognitive development oe	**M1**
explains why this matters: it supports Kohlberg's claim that cognitive understanding influences gendered behaviour, eg older preschoolers show more systematic same-sex preferences than toddlers oe	**A1**
limitation: evidence for early gender-typed behaviour challenges Kohlberg, as gender-typical preferences appear before full constancy, supporting gender schema theory oe	**M1**
explains why this matters: if children show gender-typical behaviour before achieving constancy, Kohlberg's sequence and the necessity of constancy for modelling are undermined oe	**A1**

Answer: A strength is empirical support that cognitive development relates to changing gender behaviour, with older children showing more consistent same-sex preferences. A limitation is that some children show gender-typed behaviour before achieving gender constancy, which supports gender schema theory and suggests Kohlberg may overstate the role of constancy and the timing of same-sex modelling.

Question 2

identifies stage 1 as gender identity: child labels self as boy or girl, around age 2-3 oe	**M1**
identifies stage 2 as gender stability: child realises gender is stable over time but may be confused by external features, around preschool years oe	**M1**
identifies stage 3 as gender constancy: child understands gender is consistent across situations and over time, typically by age 6 oe	**M1**
explains that understanding progresses cognitively and that constancy is needed before children seek same-sex models according to Kohlberg oe	**A1**

Answer: Kohlberg proposed three stages: gender identity (child can label self as boy or girl from about 2 to 3 years), gender stability (child realises gender is stable over time but may still judge by appearance), and gender constancy (by around age 6 the child understands gender is constant across situations and time, which then leads to seeking same-sex models).

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