11.1 Piaget's Theory of Cognitive Development and Vygotsky's Sociocultural Theory: 10-minute Pack

AQA 7182 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Outline equilibration

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 Outline scaffolding and give example

(Total for Question 2 is 3 marks)

3 Explain assimilation and accommodation

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 11.1 Piaget's Theory of Cognitive Development and Vygotsky's Sociocultural Theory: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

states equilibration is the process of achieving cognitive balance between assimilation and accommodation oe	**B1**
explains it motivates cognitive development, moving the child through stages when imbalance is detected oe	**B1**

Answer: Equilibration is the process of restoring cognitive balance between existing schemas and new experiences, so when a child encounters something that does not fit their schemas, disequilibrium prompts accommodation and development to a higher level.

Question 2

defines scaffolding as temporary support provided by a more knowledgeable other that is gradually withdrawn as the learner becomes competent oe	**M1**
gives a clear classroom example, e.g. teacher prompts difficult words, models pronunciation, then asks the child to read with decreasing help oe	**A1**
explains that the support is reduced as the child gains independence oe	**A1**

Answer: Scaffolding is temporary, adjustable support from a more knowledgeable other that is reduced as the learner gains skill; for reading aloud a teacher might model difficult words, provide prompts and feedback, then gradually let the child read independently.

Question 3

defines assimilation: interpreting new information in terms of existing schemas oe	**M1**
gives an example or explains that assimilation adds information without changing the schema oe	**A1**
defines accommodation: changing or creating schemas to fit new information that cannot be assimilated oe	**M1**
gives an example or explains that accommodation alters thinking to restore consistency oe	**A1**

Answer: Assimilation is interpreting new information using existing schemas (for example, calling a cat a 'dog' because the child associates four legs with dogs). Accommodation is altering or creating schemas when new information cannot be fitted into existing schemas (the child learns the difference and forms a separate 'cat' schema).

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