11.2 Baillargeon's Infant Research and the Development of Social Cognition: 10-minute Pack

AQA 7182 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

At least four questions require full-sentence answers.

1 Outline one practical implication of recognising early infant competence from Baillargeon-style findings for early childhood education or parenting, and state one caution that follows from the methodological limits of VOE evidence.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 Outline the violation-of-expectation method as used in infant research. Name the main behavioural measure researchers record and explain the logic connecting that measure to infants' expectations.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

3 Outline the Reading the Mind in the Eyes test and explain briefly which aspect of social cognition it is designed to measure.

(Total for Question 3 is 3 marks)

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Mark scheme · 11.2 Baillargeon's Infant Research and the Development of Social Cognition: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

outlines a practical implication, e.g. supporting more stimulating interaction with infants because they may understand more about objects and events than previously thought oe — **B1**

states a caution, e.g. that VOE evidence is indirect and may not demonstrate explicit knowledge, so educational approaches should not overinterpret infants as having adult-like understanding oe — **B1**

Answer: Implication: caregivers and educators might provide richer object play and explanation earlier, since infants may be sensitive to physical events. Caution: because VOE measures are indirect, we should avoid assuming infants have adult-like explicit knowledge and seek converging evidence before changing practices dramatically.

Question 2

states that infants are shown possible and impossible events and that researchers record looking time as the main measure oe — **B1**

explains that longer looking at an impossible event is interpreted as the infant noticing a violation of expectation about how the world works oe — **B1**

Answer: Infants are shown possible and impossible events while researchers measure looking time. Longer looking at an impossible event is taken to indicate the infant's expectation was violated.

Question 3

states that the test asks participants to look at photos of the eye region and choose which emotion or mental state is shown from several options oe — **M1**

explains it measures advanced mental state attribution or emotion recognition from subtle facial cues, often used as a test of theory of mind in older children and adults oe — **A1**

may mention that it is used in research with autism spectrum conditions to assess difficulties in recognising mental states from limited social cues oe — **B1**

Answer: Participants view photos of the eye region and choose which emotion or mental state is shown from options. The test measures advanced mental state attribution or emotion recognition from subtle facial cues and is used in research on social cognitive abilities.

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