11.2 Baillargeon's Infant Research and the Development of Social Cognition: Test Pack

AQA 7182 · about 20 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

At least four questions require full-sentence answers.

1 Define the term 'false belief' as used in theory of mind research and give one brief example.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 Explain what is meant by theory of mind in child development, give one standard experimental test used to assess it, and briefly state the test's core logic.

(Total for Question 2 is 3 marks)

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

3 Outline Baillargeon's contribution to understanding object permanence using the violation-of-expectation method, and state in what way her findings challenged Piaget's timeline for object permanence.

(Total for Question 3 is 3 marks)

4 Noah, aged nine, is asked to consider two classmates arguing over whose turn it is to use a computer. Noah says that both classmates might be right because one saw the schedule differently and the other misread the time, and he also suggests a solution that considers the viewpoint of both classmates. Using Selman's framework, identify which level of perspective-taking Noah demonstrates and justify your choice with evidence from the scenario.

(Total for Question 4 is 6 marks)

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

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

Question 1

defines false belief as a belief that an agent holds which does not match reality, i.e. the agent believes something that is untrue oe	**B1**
gives a brief example, e.g. Sally believes her marble is in the basket when it has been moved to the box oe	**B1**

Answer: A false belief is when someone believes something that is not true. Example: Sally believes her marble is in the basket even though Anne has moved it to a box.

Question 2

defines theory of mind as the ability to understand that others have independent thoughts, beliefs and intentions which may differ from one's own oe	**M1**
names a standard test, e.g. the Sally-Anne false-belief task (Baron-Cohen, Leslie and Frith) oe	**A1**
briefly states the logic, e.g. asking where a character with a false belief will search for a hidden object, which shows whether the child understands that the character holds a different belief oe	**A1**

Answer: Theory of mind is understanding that others have beliefs and intentions different from your own. A standard test is the Sally-Anne false-belief task, which asks where a character with a false belief will look for a hidden object to see if the child appreciates the character's belief.

Question 3

states that Baillargeon used VOE tasks to show infants' responses to physically impossible events, such as a drawbridge appearing to pass through an occluded object oe	**M1**
reports that infants as young as a few months looked longer at impossible events, implying some understanding of object permanence earlier than Piaget proposed oe	**A1**
states the challenge: object permanence may begin to appear in infancy before the end of Piaget's sensorimotor stage, so his timeline may underestimate early competence oe	**A1**

Answer: Baillargeon used violation of expectation tasks, for example showing infants impossible events like an occluded object not behaving as expected, and found longer looking by very young infants. This suggests some object permanence exists earlier than Piaget claimed, challenging his later timetable.

Question 4

identifies the appropriate Selman level, likely the self-reflective or third-person level depending on justification, but here nine-year-old Noah showing understanding of mutual viewpoints fits Selman's self-reflective level (level 3) oe	**M1**
explains that the self-reflective level involves understanding that people can have different perspectives and the ability to consider another's viewpoint and how it relates to one own's viewpoint oe	**A1**
uses evidence from the scenario: Noah recognises both classmates have plausible views and that their perspectives can be considered together oe	**M1**
links Noah's suggestion of a solution that considers both viewpoints to the level's emphasis on mutual perspective taking and simple negotiation oe	**A1**
may note typical age range: Selman places level 3 around 8 to 10 years, matching Noah's age oe	**M1**
concludes that Noah demonstrates the self-reflective perspective-taking characteristic of level 3 oe	**A1**

Answer: Noah demonstrates Selman level 3, the self-reflective level: he recognises both classmates have different but reasonable perspectives and proposes a solution that takes both viewpoints into account, which matches the level 3 capability and its typical age range.

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk