

Please write clearly in block capitals.

Centre Number

Candidate Number

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Forename(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate signature \_\_\_\_\_

A-level

# PSYCHOLOGY

A-level topic mock · Based on AQA  
Psychology

Paper 3 · Section B option ·  
Cognition and Development

2026

Time allowed: 1 hour

## Materials

For this paper you must have:

- a black ink or black ball-point pen.

## Instructions

- This paper is for **A-level only** — Cognition and Development is a Paper 3 option topic, not assessed at AS.
- Use black ink or black ball-point pen. Fill in the boxes above.
- Answer **all** questions in the spaces provided. If you need extra space, use the lined pages at the end.
- Cross through any rough work you do not want marked.

## Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets. This paper covers **Cognition and Development** only (AQA spec 4.3.4).
- **Maximum mark: 48.** The paper includes an 8-mark essay (Q10) and a 16-mark essay (Q11).
- Answer in continuous prose. You will be assessed on use of good English, clear organisation and specialist vocabulary.

For Examiner's Use	
Question	Mark
01	
02	
03	
04	
05	
06	
07	
08	
09	
10	
11	
<b>TOTAL</b>	

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Section B

## Cognition and Development

Answer all questions in this section.

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0 1

Which one of the following best describes **assimilation** in Piaget's theory? Write A, B, C or D in your answer book.

- A Changing an existing schema to fit new information.
- B Incorporating new information into an existing schema.
- C The drive to restore mental balance when faced with new information.
- D Understanding that objects continue to exist when they are out of sight.

[1 mark]

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0 2

Which one of the following best describes the **zone of proximal development**? Write A, B, C or D in your answer book.

- A The stage at which children develop object permanence.
- B The age range during which children can be taught conservation.
- C The gap between what a child can do alone and what they can do with help from a more knowledgeable other.
- D The neural circuits that fire both when performing and observing an action.

[1 mark]

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0 3

Which one of the following best describes the correct answer in the **Sally-Anne task**? Write A, B, C or D in your answer book.

- A The child must say where Anne moved the marble to.
- B The child must say where the marble actually is.
- C The child must say where Sally will look for the marble, based on Sally's belief.
- D The child must say what Anne is thinking about the marble.

[1 mark]

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0 4

Outline what is meant by **accommodation** and **equilibration** in Piaget's theory.

[3 marks]

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0 8

Outline **Selman's levels of perspective-taking**. Refer to at least **three** levels in your answer.

[3 marks]

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0 9

Briefly outline the role of the **mirror neuron system** in social cognition.

[4 marks]

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