# Psychology

## Cognitive Development

### GRADED ACADEMIC SUBJECT CONTENT

**Credit Value of Unit**: 3  
**Level of Unit**: 3

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Assessment Criteria</th>
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<tbody>
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<td><strong>The student should be able to</strong></td>
<td><strong>The student can</strong></td>
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</table>
| 1. Understand theories of cognitive development | 1.1 Explain theories of cognitive development  
1.2 Evaluate theories of cognitive development |
| 2. Understand key research in cognitive development | 2.1 Describe key research in cognitive development  
2.2 Evaluate key research in cognitive development  
2.3 Explain some of the practical implications of research into cognitive development |

### Assessment Methodology

Presentation, portfolio or essay

### Grading of this Unit

The following grade descriptors will be applied to the assessment of this unit:

1. Understanding the Subject  
2. Application of Knowledge  
4. Use of Information  
5. Communication and Presentation  
7. Quality

Please refer to the QAA Grade Descriptors for detail of the components of each descriptor
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Please note that the indicative content supplied below is intended as a suggested guide only. It is not meant to be a prescriptive, exhaustive or fully delivered content list.

1. **Understand theories of cognitive development**
   - Piaget’s theory of cognitive development (schema, accommodation and assimilation, stages of development), Bruner, Vygotsky’s theory (ZPD and scaffolding), the role of inner speech, the information processing approach (Siegler), knowledge acquisition approach

2. **Understand key research in cognitive development**
   - Knowledge acquisition Keil (1989), Chi (1978)
   - Information processing – Siegler (1974), Siegler (1976)
   - Application to education – Plowden Committee, National Curriculum, Nuffield, application of Bruner to maths