

Summary

1.2a Reconstructive Memory

Subject	Year	Start date	Duration
Psychology	IB1	Week 1, October	2 weeks 8 hours

Course Part

Cognitive Approach: Reliability of Cognitive Processing

Description

Human memory is not an exact copy of events, but rather a reconstruction that may be altered over time, through discussions with others or input from the media. Research shows that memory may be changed during storage, processing and retrieval, due to schema processing. Relevant examples related to studying the nature of reconstructive memory could be but are not limited to:

- confabulation—a memory based on a fabricated, distorted or misinterpreted memory often believed to be true in spite of contradictory evidence
- schema processing—memory processing based on prior knowledge in the form of schemas that could result in distortion
- false memories—recalling an event that never happened and believing it to be true.

Inquiry & Purpose

Inquiry / Higher Order Questions

Type

Inquiry Questions

Content-based

Does a researcher's choice of methodology affect the reliability or credibility of the research?

Curriculum

Aims

Enable the student to recognize that the content and methodologies of the individuals and societies subjects are contestable and that their study requires the toleration of uncertainty

Objectives

Application and analysis

demonstrate application and analysis of the knowledge relevant to areas of applied psychology

Synthesis and evaluation

evaluate the contribution of research to understanding human psychology

Syllabus Content

Core

Cognitive approach to understanding behaviour

Reliability of cognitive processes

Reconstructive memory: Human memory is not an exact copy of events but rather a reconstruction that may be altered over time, through discussions with others or input from the media. Research shows that memory may be changed during storage, processing and retrieval, for example, due to schema processing. Knowing this could be important not only in our daily lives but in particular in relation to eyewitness testimony.

ATL Skills

Approaches to Learning

Thinking

- In this unit, we will

set students a task which required higher-order thinking skills (such as analysis or evaluation)

Developing IB Learners

Learner Profile



Thinkers



Risk-takers (Courageous)