**COMMAND TERM & MARKBANDS PRACTICE:**

**Describe: Give a detailed account.**

**What it means: write a narrative that outline the details of something using examples.**

**Cognitive level of analysis (CLOA)**

*2. Describe how****one****particular research method is used in****one****study at the cognitive level of analysis.*

An example of a research method used at the cognitive level of analysis is an experiment. Experiments are generally highly controlled studies that allow researchers to see a direct cause and effect. Experiments are generally done in lab conditions, meaning they often lack ecological validity. Experiments are used in the CLOA on memory to explain what factors may affect memory. This allows researchers to find examples of factors that damage memory or improve memory. Experiments are also used to test hypotheses formed in other research methods at the CLOA such as case studies. An example of an experiment used in the CLOA is Michael Meany’s study on glucocorticoids in rats.

Meany’s study on the effect of glucocorticoids on memory and brain function is an example of an experiment used on the CLOA. Meany’s aim was to see the effect of glucocorticoids on rats. Meany’s independent variable in the study was whether a rat was stroked or coddled as a child by their mother, or whether they weren’t. The dependent variable was the rats’ ability to remember where a platform was in water and the damage to their hippocampus. Meany used two groups of rats – handled and unhandled. Meany then placed the rats in a pool of water with a platform in it after their development was finished. Meany found that the handled rats found the platform much more easily and remembered where it was faster when place in the pool than the unhandled rats. In addition, Meaney then examined the rats’ hippocampus after death. The rats that were not handled had less developed and more damaged hippocampus. Meany found that this is because not being handled causes stress, releasing glucocorticoids that damage the hippocampus. This study has been used to attempt to show that childhood development leads to Alzheimer’s Disease; however, there are too many other factors involved. Meany’s study shows the effectiveness of experiments at the CLOA as any other research method would not allow him to control the variables other than the amount of glucocorticoids released.

**Markbands Level Descriptor**  
High (7-8)

The question is answered in a focused and effective manner and meets the demands of the command term. The response is supported by appropriate and accurate knowledge and understanding.

Mid (4-6)

The question is partially answered. Knowledge and understanding is accurate but limited. Either the command term is not effectively addressed or the response is not sufficiently explicit in answering the question.  
  
Low (1-3)

There is an attempt to answer the question, but knowledge and understanding is limited, often inaccurate, or of marginal relevance to the question. The answer does not reach a standard described by the descriptors below.

### Command terms level 1: Knowledge and comprehension

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Command Term** | **Explanation in the guide** | **What it means** | **Example** |
| **Define** | Give the precise meaning of a word, concept, phrase. | Say what it means in psychology and use precise vocabulary to do that. | Define attachment. |
| **Describe** | Give a detailed account | Write a narrative that outlines the details of something using examples. | Describe the role of situational factors in explaining behavior. |
| **Outline** | Give a brief account or summary of something. | Give a brief summary of whatever is mentioned in the question. | Outline one principle that defines the biological level of analysis. |
| **State** | Give a specific name or other brief answer without explanation. | Give a very brief answer but don't explain anything. | State the role of communication in maintaining relationships. |

The method is satisfactorily described, but the study is not focused on cognition, but on biology. It is a “biological factors on cognitive processes” example. 3 marks