**Cognitive psychologists study the mind and the process of information being taken in, stored, and used.  Choose one of the following studies to explain the importance of cognitive psychology. (10 points)**

**Mann, Vrij, and Bull (suspects, lies, and videotape)**

**Loftus and Pickrell (formation of false memories)**

**Baron-Cohen (reading the mind in the eyes: revised 2001)**

**Cognitive processes, such as perception, memory, thinking, and reasoning are important in understanding how the mind works.  Studying different aspects of cognition can help us find out what kinds of influences affect the cognitive process.  In Loftus and Pickrell, for example, it was determined that information added after an event can actually change a person's memory of that event, or even create a memory of something that never happened.  There was a discussion about other variables, such as personal experiences that were similar in nature , like being lost someplace other than a mall, or going shopping and temporarily thinking you were lost.**

**The use of three real experiences combined with one false experience was enough to change the cognitive process. Information about real experiences was obtained through interviews with adult family members.  Information from the sample was obtained using a 5 page questionnaire and interviews within a 2 week period.  If cognitive processes can be altered, then police officers and attorneys need to be careful about the use of "leading" questions when dealing with eyewitness testimony.**

**According to Loftus and Pickrell, memory is not fixed, but malleable.  "Can thoughts and memory be altered at any age?"  "Are some age groups more susceptible to added information than others?"  "Would there be a difference between ethnic groups?"  Cognitive studies, like Loftus and Pickrell, are not only useful for their basic findings, but for impetus to research other questions regarding the mind's processing of information.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Outline** | **marks** |
| No marks for description of study. No answer or incorrect answer | **0** |
| Anecdotal discussion, brief detail, minimal focus. Very limited range. Evaluation may be  inaccurate, incomplete or muddled | **1-3** |
| Either points illustrating the importance of the cognitive approach lack depth and/or breadth or relevant points are considered without contrast to alternatives. The answer is general rather than focused on study but shows some understanding | **4-5** |
| Points illustrating the contribution of the study to the investigation of cognitive approach are considered although they may lack breadth or depth. The answer shows good discussion with reasonable understanding. | **6-7** |
| The contribution of the study to the importance of the cognitive approach is clear and detailed and there is contrast to alternatives. Discussion shows good understanding and clear expression. | **8-10** |