C8551 Cognitive Psychology Resit
Convenor: Kristy Lascelles

Essay ESS (70%) - 1,500 words
Students are asked to choose ONE of the following essay titles: Students must select a different essay question to any question answered in a previous sit of this assessment.

1. What has developmental research revealed about the role of experience in shaping our visual perception?

2. Outline the key evidence originally put forward in favour of early and late selection perspectives, and then discuss to what extent Load Theory can provide an alternative explanation of this evidence.

3. What is inattentional blindness, and what are its causes?

4. Describe the Motor Theory of speech perception and discuss the evidence for and against the theory.

5. You have been assigned the role of Student Mentor and are therefore in a position to advise others on how best to study for exams at University. Discuss the advice you would give, explaining the basis of your advice in both lab-based and applied research on episodic memory.

6. Schacter (1999, and Schacter & Guerin, 2011) has argued that memory distortions “reflect adaptive cognitive processes that contribute to the efficient functioning of memory, but produce distortions as a consequence of doing so”. Discuss whether you agree, referring to evidence from memory research.

7. How are language and thought related to each other? What kinds of evidence are relevant to answering this question?

8. How do descriptions of language inform theories of language processing?

9. How might cognitive research into the psychology of planning be used to explain the possible scenario that the UK will leave the EU at the end of 2020 with a ‘no-deal Brexit’?

10. Sir Keir Starmer (Labour party leader) has called for a ‘circuit breaker’ to lower the reproduction number, or R value, of the Coronavirus (BBC News website, 14 October, 2020). With reference to theories of human reasoning and decision-making, what kinds of cognitive mechanism might individuals use to evaluate this proposal, and what decision-making errors might be predicted as a result of using different cognitive mechanisms?

Report REP (30%) - 1,500 words:
For this assessment you need to produce a research proposal with a maximum of 1500 words (excluding the reference section).
Your research proposal should be based on the distractor task experiment from the lab practical in week 3. You will need to develop this research area further by proposing a new experiment which includes the distractor task and at least one additional repeated measures independent variable (you can add more than one repeated measures variable and you can add more dependent variables if you wish). Do not design a between-subjects experiment (i.e. do not compare different groups of participants) or a correlational individual differences study.

Your new variable must be different to any previous submission of the research proposal.

Further guidance can be found on Canvas.