The English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA)

Cognitive Assessment

Cognition and its main domains

Cognition is the mental action or process of acquiring, understanding and using knowledge through thinking, experience and senses.

- Learning and memory
- Visuospatial and motor function
- Language
- Executive functioning
- Social cognition/emotions
- Attention/concentration
## Cognitive Assessments

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Cells in square brackets [✔] - only collected/assessed for refreshment sample or those who had not undertaken previously.

## Memory

- Memory can be defined as the storage of learned information for retrieval and potential future use. Memory represents the ability to recall, information, personal experiences and procedures (skills and habits).

- ELSA assesses respondents’ memory using verbal learning tests, testing of orientation in time, prospective memory tests, as well as a subjective evaluation.
Memory tests

- Word list: Participants are asked to remember ten common words, both immediately and after a short delay.
- Orientation in time: Participants are asked questions about the interview’s date.
- Prospective task: Participants are asked to remember to perform a specific task at a specific time.
- Subjective evaluation

Harmonised Cognitive Assessment Protocol (HCAP)

- Study to assess dementia and mild cognitive impairment using a harmonised protocol
- The HCAP ELSA sub-study was carried out in 2018, in a stratified sub-sample of 1273 adults aged 65 and older
- Extensive battery of neuropsychology tests, including 1-hour clinical assessment
### ELSA HCAP tests

**Respondents**
- Mini mental state exam
- Word list (immediate/delayed)
- Retrieval fluency
- Letter cancellation
- Backwards counting
- 10/66 questions
- Story memory
- Word list recognition
- Constructional praxis
- Logical memory – recognition
- Raven’s matrices
- Trail making
- Smell test
- Depressive symptoms

**Informants**
- Informant Questionnaire on Cognitive Decline in the Elderly
- Blessed Dementia Rating Scale (Part 1 and 2)
- HRS Activities Questionnaire
- Community Screening Instrument for Dementia (CSI-D)
- 10/66 Informant questionnaire

### Useful Resources

https://www.elsa-project.ac.uk/training-resources
- Overview of ELSA
- Overview of all areas of study and measures by wave
- How to access the data
- HCAP Documentation (sample design, weighting, and questionnaires)

https://www.elsa-project.ac.uk/hcap