

# Cognitivism

## About cognitivism

One of the first criticism of [behaviorist learning](#) approach came from [gestalt psychologists](#) and was related to behaviorist dependencies exclusively on overt behavior. It was the [gestalt](#) views of learning that offered a **new approach to learning** that extended beyond behaviorism and set the **basic principles** of what is today known as **cognitive theories**. In the 1960s behaviorism as a dominant [learning paradigm](#) was replaced by cognitivism.

[Cognitive](#) approach to learning, unlike behavioral, sets the **learner** as the **locus of control** and not just as a passive participant in the process of learning. It attempts to open the “black box” of his mind and **explain complex cognitive processes** in it. Cognitivist theories emphasize the **importance of the learner**, especially his **prior knowledge and experiences** as well as his **role of an organized information processor**.

## Learning theories:

- [Gestalt Psychology](#) - [Max Wertheimer](#) (1880 - 1943)
- [Social Cognitive Learning Theory](#) - [Albert Bandura](#) (1925 - )
- [Assimilation Theory](#) [David Ausubel](#)
- [Cognitive Load Theory](#) [John Sweller](#)
- [Cognitive Theory of Multimedia Learning](#) [Richard Mayer](#)
- [Schema Theory](#) [Sir Frederic Bartlett](#)
- [Stage Theory of Cognitive Development](#) [Jean Piaget](#)

## Instructional design theories and learning models:

- [Cone of Experience](#) ([Edgar Dale](#))
- [Concept Mapping](#) ([Joseph Novak](#))
- [Component Display Theory](#) ([Dave Merrill](#))
- [Elaboration Theory](#) ([Charles Reigeluth](#))
- [Mental Model Theory Of Thinking And Reasoning](#) ([Philip Johnson-Laird](#))
- [Scripts Theory](#) ([Roger Schank](#))
- [Structural Learning Theory](#) ([Joseph Scandura](#))

## Criticisms

Since its development during the 1960s various critics of cognitivism have emerged, challenging its assumption that **mental functions can be compared to a information processing model**. Some authors like John Searle or Roger Penrose claim that computation, **due to its inherent limitations**, can never achieve the complexity and possibilities of mental functions and therefore cannot be successfully used to describe them. **Gödel's incompleteness theorem** or **Turing's halting**

**problem** are often held as proves for this point of view.

During the 1970s **humanism evolved as an opposing view to both behaviorism and cognitivism** beginning with the **holistic approach**, belief in the power of an individual and view **learning as a way of fulfilling his potentials**.

## Bibliography

[Cognitivism at Learning Theories.](#)

[Learning Theory Cognitivism Ppt Presentation.](#)

## Read more

Leidlmaier, Karl. After Cognitivism: A Reassessment of Cognitive Science and Philosophy. Springer, 2009.

Crane, T. Book review of "The Mind's Provisions" by Vincent Descombes. European Journal of Philosophy 12, no. 3: p399-406. 2004.

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