

Summary

In this section Ekberg discusses the converging interests in traditional psychometric research and the human information processing approach in experimental cognitive psychology. A promising way to measure individual differences in test performance within the framework of an experimentally based cognitive theory is Sternberg's componential analysis. Several specific mental processes in the model may be thought to be affected by long-term exposure to solvents.

Another interesting development in cognitive psychology is the emphasis on metacognition, ie, the control an individual has over his own cognitive processes. Metacognitive processes appear to be closely associated to the function Lezak previously labeled the executive capacity.

Sjöberg discusses whether subjective states can be measured and evaluates some of the scales used for measuring subjective phenomena. He also describes how mood measurements can provide valuable information in different applications. The central role of mood states in human behavior in real life and in testing situations appears to have been neglected. Motivation and emotion may play a central role in cognitive activities, as has been realized in discussions on metacognition.

The interplay between cognition, emotions, and the motivational states may prove to be an important target area in behavioral toxicology in the future.