

# The English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA)

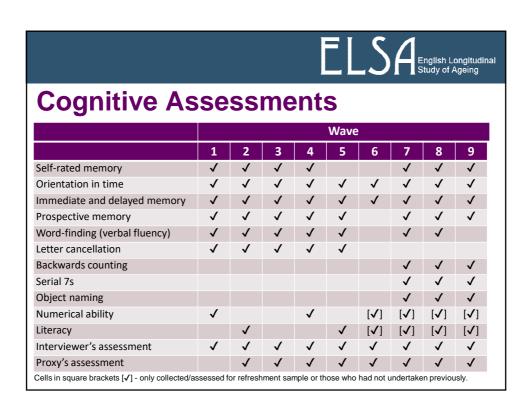
### **Cognitive Assessment**



### **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





### **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