

2015 specification
First exams in 2017 (2016 for AS)

Course Companion for Edexcel Psychology

Topic 2: Cognitive Psychology

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Teacher's Introduction

This course companion is designed to support the AS and A Level Edexcel Psychology Psychology unit. Within the companion, cognitive psychology has been divided into chapters covering a single bullet point of the specification. These chapters follow the order of knowledge of the topic can be built on and developed as the companion progresses.

The course companion provides a detailed set of notes on the specification content for use in class by your students. Opportunities to put their learning into practice are found in the form of tasks and questions.

Tasks have been created to strengthen students' learning by providing ways to test their knowledge of information they have covered. You may notice 'Try it!' boxes where memory practice can be carried out by the students. This allows them to gain a better understanding of how it was researched.

You may also come across 'Think!' or 'Consider' boxes during chapters. These boxes encourage students to look beyond the information in front of them and consider wider implications, how they relate to one another, the significance of findings and how the findings relate to real-world points that could be raised are provided for these boxes.

At the end of each chapter, there will be two sets of questions to reinforce your students' learning. The first set is 'Check your understanding' questions which focus on testing students' knowledge of the content they have learnt through the companion. Following these is 'Exam-style' questions which test the ability to translate this information into exam-style answers. Model answers have been provided for all questions, and also for tasks when appropriate.

At the end of the entire set of five chapters, there is a set of four A Level exam-style questions taking both the AS and A Level courses. Each question corresponds to each of the chapters, i.e. A Level question 1 is based on: 'Chapter 1: The working memory model', 'Chapter 2: The multi-store model of memory' and so on. These questions are marked. The mark schemes are provided at the end of the answers section of the resource.

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Chapter 1: The Working Memory

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Overview

In this chapter we will learn about Baddeley and Hitch's (1974) working memory model. We will study the crucial components of this model: the central executive, phonological loop, visuospatial sketch pad and the necessary addition of the episodic buffer. We will examine how information is encoded in this model and what the capacity is for storage for these components. We will look at the evidence for these components and the strengths and weaknesses of the model as a whole.

Learning outcomes

After studying this chapter you should be able to:

- ☐ Describe the working memory model and its components
- ☐ Explain why the episodic buffer is a necessary addition to the model
- ☐ Describe coding and capacity in this model
- ☐ Describe and evaluate the evidence for this model
- ☐ Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of this model

Key Terms

Articulatory process	Rehearses auditory information (inner voice) to prevent decay
Central executive	Determines how resources, including attention, are allocated between the systems
Episodic buffer	Temporarily stores information and integrates information from the other systems
Phonological loop	Encodes auditory information
Phonological store	Holds the auditory information (inner ear)
Visuospatial sketch pad	Encodes visual information
Word-length effect	People find it easier to remember shorter words than longer words
Working memory	The capacity to hold and manipulate information in our short-term memory



Scene-Setting Questions

- Why is driving and texting a bad idea?
- Can we really multitask?
- In your head, do the sum $18 + 14 + 32$; discuss how you did it.

A brief introduction to cognitive psychology

Cognitive psychology is interested in the study of cognitive processes such as memory, attention, language and problem-solving. Cognitive psychologists are interested in these processes because they affect our behaviour. We can learn more about why we behave in certain ways by studying these processes that we cannot directly observe.

Some of the questions that cognitive psychologists are interested in include:

- Why do we forget?
- How do we solve problems?
- How is information stored in the brain?
- Why is our memory not accurate?
- How do we make decisions?
- How can we create human-like intelligence in a machine?
- What happens when we try to divide our attention between two tasks?

'Cognition' is an umbrella term for the processes of the mind, and these include perception, categorising information, planning, imagining and many others. It would not be surprising if children's cognitive skills and way of thinking would be different from those of adults. As children's cognitive abilities improve, and the cognitive processes that underlie them become more efficient, their behaviour changes.

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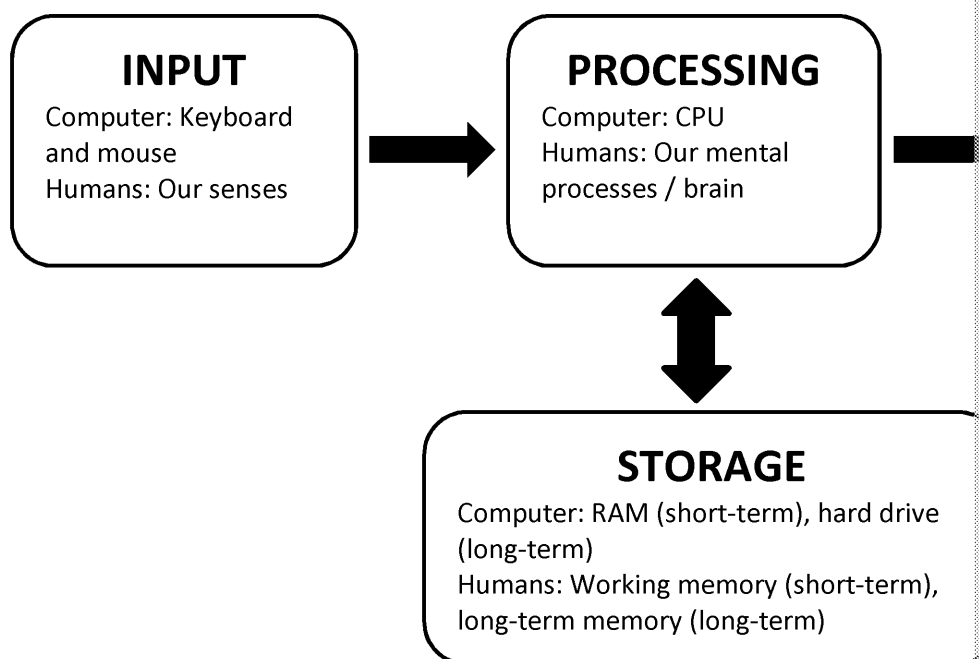


Developmental theorists such as Piaget examined how children's cognitive skills develop in different ways.

Information processing: the computer analogy

Cognitive psychologists have compared human information processing to the way a computer works.

The diagram below shows how the components of computer can be likened to our cognitive processes.



Cognitive psychologists are especially interested in our mental processes. Two inputs can produce the same output but not produce the same output. Processes such as attention, perception, and memory are involved in our output. Processing occurs in systematic ways, and cognitive psychologists are interested in how these processes work so that it might be possible to predict the exact output if provided with the same inputs.

However, this analogy is not foolproof. For example, computers are much faster than the human mind. Additionally, computers use serial processing, which means that one process must finish before the next one begins. In contrast, humans use parallel processing. In parallel processing, multiple processes can occur at the same time.

What is working memory?

Tasks to try:

- Write down the directions to go from your house to your school/college.
- Use mental arithmetic to solve the sum 93×12 .
- Work out how many doors there are in your house.

A strategy: start by visualising walking through your front door and walk through the layout of your house, counting the doors as you go.

What do these tasks have in common? They all use working memory.

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Working memory is the capacity to hold and manipulate information in our short-term memory, which allows you to carry out more complicated cognitive processes. For instance, in the mental arithmetic example, you might solve it by doing:

$$\begin{array}{r} 93 \times 10 = 930 \\ \downarrow \\ 93 \times 2 = 186 \\ \downarrow \\ 930 + 186 = 1116 \end{array}$$

You must hold the number 930 in your memory while you work out 93×2 , in order to then carry out the addition sum.

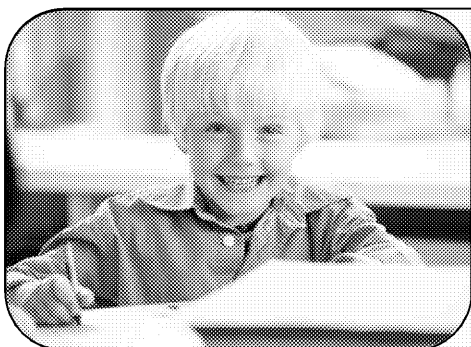
What led to the idea of working memory?

Baddeley and Hitch (1974) had participants take part in a dual-processing task which involved participants completing reasoning tasks at the same time as rehearsing digit strings. Participants were successfully able to do both tasks without a drop in accuracy. This led to the suggestion of more than a simple storage of information system.

Individual differences in working memory

Not everyone has equal abilities in their working memory, and lower abilities in working memory have been associated with worse performance on attention and memory tasks.

Unsworth (2007) suggested that in a free recall task individuals with a low working memory might search through a larger number of items, which is slower and less accurate than high working memory.



Real-life application: working memory
Attempts to train working memory in children have been unsuccessful, but adapting teaching approaches to an appropriate method of helping these children with working memory problems forget less information so fail to complete it. This could be remedied by a brief to reduce working memory load, and clear instructions.

Components of the working memory model

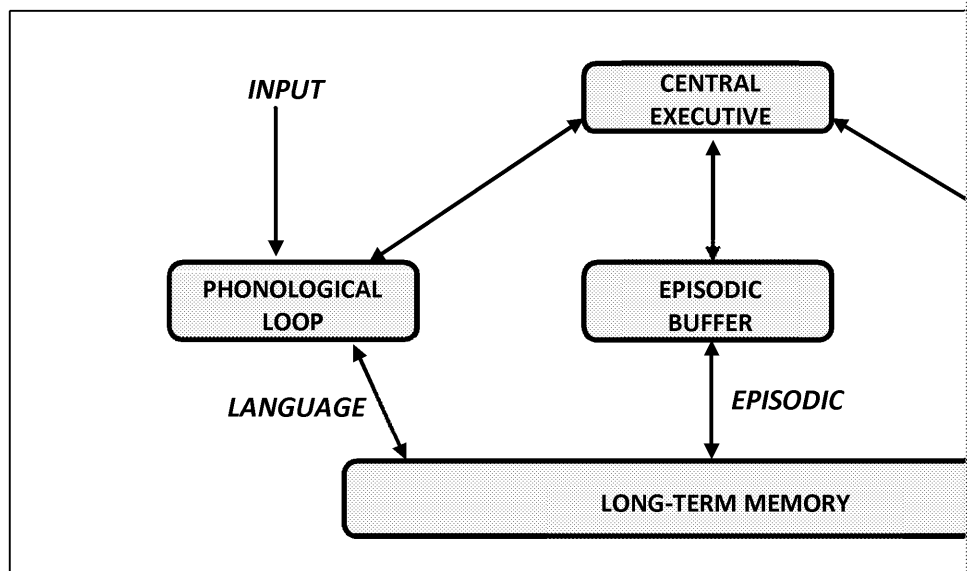
All of the components in the working memory model have a limited capacity, which compete for resources. Two assumptions follow on from this model:

- 1) If two tasks are using the same components, their performance will be impaired (compared to performed alone).
- 2) If two tasks are using different components, their performance will be unaffected.

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The model



The working memory model is proposed instead of short-term memory. Rather than short-term memory, the working memory model argues that short-term memory is split up into a number of different components that interact with long-term memory.

The most important component of the model is the central executive, which helps to control the other systems. The phonological loop is involved in holding and rehearsing speech. The visuo-spatial sketch pad stores and processes visual and spatial information.

The episodic buffer is a newer addition to the model, which was added to account for the integration of information from different senses. The episodic buffer is an area involved in the integration of information from different senses where other components appear to be storing more information than their limited capacity.

Next we look at these components in more detail, and evidence for these will be discussed in the next chapter.

Central executive

The central executive resembles the function of attention and it allocates 'resources'. As the most important component of the model, the central executive controls the other components. It has a very limited capacity, which means it cannot do too many tasks at once.

What is the central executive for?

The central executive is involved in many important functions:

- Switching between multiple tasks
- Focusing attention
- Planning
- Reasoning
- Problem-solving
- Linking to long-term memory

Limited capacity

The central executive, while being a very important component, has a limited capacity. This is one reason why we cannot successfully complete many different tasks at the same time.

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Evaluation

Would we be likely to do these two tasks together in real life?

Were both tasks using a central unit or was the visuospatial sketch pad involved?

Hunt (1980) investigated the capacity of participants complete a psychomotor task involving spatial problems at the same time when completing both tasks at the same time when performing either task alone. He found that using the capacity of a central unit (the central executive) reduced performance.

Dysexecutive syndrome

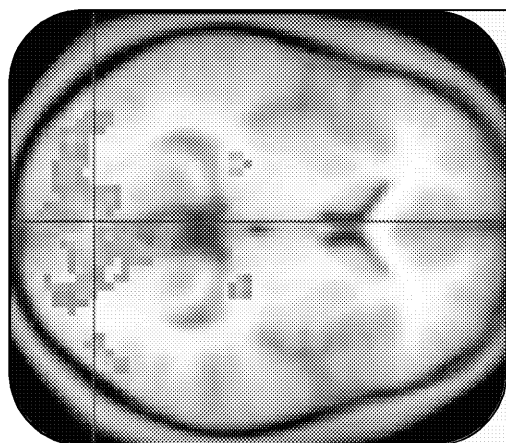
Dysexecutive syndrome is a term for the collection of symptoms as result of brain damage. These symptoms are all related to central executive functions. Individuals with dysexecutive syndrome have difficulties in planning, maintaining attention and in inhibiting responses as a result of a deficit. They tend to have damage to the frontal lobes, suggesting that the central executive is located in the frontal lobes of the brain.

A neural basis?

Mottaghy (2006) reviewed studies that used the technique of repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation (rTMS), which used magnetic pulses to disrupt activity of the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex. This had the effect of impairing complex cognitive tasks, suggesting that the basis for central executive functions lies in the prefrontal cortex.

More evidence of the central executive

Bunge et al. (2000) used fMRI to investigate brain activity of patients doing dual tasks. Participants were asked to evaluate whether sentences were correct or incorrect. They found that brain activity was of greater intensity in the prefrontal cortex condition compared to when performing these tasks separately. This suggests that the central executive has greater attentional demands, requiring more activity in the prefrontal cortex than the other components.



Functional magnetic resonance imaging

fMRI works because when parts of our brain are active, more blood is directed to the region. Changes in blood flow are measured, which are shown as different colors on the scan, depending on the strength of activation. One disadvantage of this technique is that it is slow to perform multiple roles and it can be difficult to interpret the results of activation.

One of the key advantages of fMRI over other techniques is that it does not use radiation, which makes it safe for repeated use.

Evaluation of the central executive

It has been suggested that the central executive is actually a 'catch-all' term for processes that are not well understood. More current research is now getting closer to understanding the components behind the central executive.

Not a single unit

Some critics argue against the central executive being a single unit but suggest that it consists of different components.

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Miyake et al. (2000) argued that it could be separated into three processes:

Inhibition function	Shifting function	
ability to go against automatic responses	ability to shift between several tasks	use

Collette et al. (2005) used PET scans to examine brain activity of participants doing functions. They found that each activity was associated with a different area of the brain, suggesting they are distinct functions.

Eslinger and Damasio (1985) identified a patient EVF who performed well on tasks requiring decision-making skills. This suggests that only part of his central executive was damaged.

This idea goes against the current model, which argues that there is just one unit of control. It may be a more precise explanation of the processes involved in working memory but the model can be adapted.

Dysexecutive syndrome

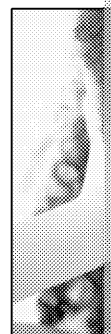
Not all people with prefrontal damage develop dysexecutive syndrome, suggesting that some functions may exist in their own right. This suggests that working memory may not be located in the left brain as not all brain-damaged patients with damage in this area show these symptoms.

Phonological loop (inner ear)

The phonological loop has been extensively studied and its role is to explain preference for auditory encoding in short-term memory.

What is the phonological loop for?

- Accounts for the fact that short-term memories tend to be acoustically encoded
- Stores memories we need to retain for a short amount of time, such as a phone number
- Holds words we are about to say aloud



Split into:

Phonological store – holds acoustic items for a short amount of time

Phonological loop – involved in the rehearsal of acoustic information

Support: the word-length effect

Baddeley et al. (1975) found that it was not the number of letters that was important but the time it took to say them. The word-length effect is that a greater number of shorter words could be remembered than longer words, as they take less time to say. Baddeley and colleagues found that you store a limited amount of information.

Try it!

Here are two lists of words; read a list and then try to recall it in order:

List 1: cat, sit, cow, top, man, ink, end, ball

List 2: highlight, ministry, justification, universe, opportunity, monitoring, position

Which list is more difficult to remember?

Methodology (AO3): In this example you could argue that it is not fair to compare words such as 'ministry' as cat is a much simpler concept and we learn it much earlier. To test for the word-length effect, the word lists should be matched for how common or frequent they are in usage, what age they are learnt at and what part of speech they are (noun).

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Support: the phonological similarity effect

The phonological loop is designed to hold speech-type information. Conrad and Hull (1968) found that participants could recall a list of letters in the correct order. The letters either rhymed with one another (e.g. H, Y, R). Rhyming letter lists were much more difficult to remember than non-rhyming letter lists. The rhyming lists create similar-sounding memory traces which more easily interfere with each other.

Try it!

Here are two lists of words; read a list and then try to recall it in order:

List 1: frog, happy, open, lamp, friend, leap

List 2: fight, bite, night, write, delight, kite

Which list was harder?

The phonological similarity effect occurs in whole words too, but single letters are easier to remember as there is less to discriminate between.

Evaluation of the phonological loop

Articulatory suppression

A competing articulatory task such as saying 'the the the' can prevent rehearsal. This is because, visually, the word-length effect is prevented as it takes the same amount of time to say 'the' as it does to say 'the the the'.

Try it!

Read this list of words: view, laugh, zebra, chance, play, move, jazz

Immediately afterwards, say 'the the the' over and over again.

Baddeley et al. (1975) found that articulatory suppression using the word 'the' eliminated the word-length effect. This is because, as shorter words took the same amount of time as longer words to rehearse. This suggests that the word-length effect is dependent on verbal encoding (as performed by the phonological loop) and not on the length of the material ('the the the'), results in shorter words taking the same length of time to rehearse as longer words.

Musical memory

Schulze et al. (2011) used fMRI to investigate how musical information was incorporated in working memory. Auditory information is handled by the phonological loop but this has primarily concerned verbal memory.

Most people are 'trained' in how to speak and so demonstrate verbal memory, whereas musicians are trained in both verbal skills and tonal skills.

Their study found that the same structures were involved in both verbal and tonal working memory but musicians activated certain areas only during tonal working memory or verbal working memory.

This suggests that in musicians there are two working memory systems related to verbal and tonal information, which is against the idea of a single phonological loop and suggests there may be a dual-system working memory model.



The current account

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Visuospatial sketch pad (inner eye)

When do we use our visuospatial sketch pad?

Example scenarios:

- You are giving your directions from where you are to the local shops.
- You draw a picture of a light bulb.

Both of these activities require you to hold imagery in your mind and use it to perform a task.

A study of the visuospatial sketch pad...

Baddeley et al. (1973) instructed participants to track a moving light using a pointer and at the same time either describe the angle in capital letters (e.g. H or F) or perform a verbal task. During this dual task, participants experienced difficulty when trying to track the light and describe the angle but did not experience difficulties with the verbal task. This suggests that tracking the light and describing the angle compete for attention of the visuospatial system. This suggests that visual and spatial information require the same component of the system. Verbal information does not, which supports the existence of the visuospatial sketch pad.

An integrated system or two separate systems?

Logie (1995) argued that there were two systems involved in the visuospatial sketch pad.

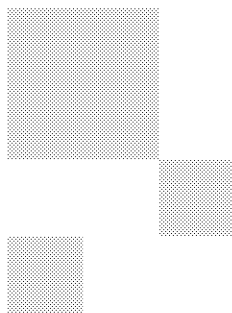
Visual cache – holds information on visual form and colour

Inner scribe – deals with spatial and movement information and is involved in the manipulation of information

Assessing the two different systems

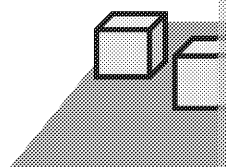
Visual: Pattern Span Task

- Participants are shown a matrix in which half of the squares are filled in, and they must remember and colour in the same squares on a blank grid.



Spatial: Tower of Hanoi

- The experimenter shows a sequence of moves and then taps the sequence on a table.
- Participants must reproduce the sequence of moves using their spatial reasoning.



- The matrixes get increasingly larger and their visual span is the maximum size of the matrix before mistakes start to be made.

Support for two separate systems:

Klauer and Zhao (2004) found that:

- a competing spatial task should interfere with a spatial task more than a visual task
- and a competing visual task should interfere with a visual task more than a spatial task

Sala et al. (2003) conducted a review of research into the neural regions of spatial working memory. They found a difference in neural activation:

- Greater activation in the ventral prefrontal cortex – visual working memory
- Greater activation in the dorsal prefrontal cortex – spatial working memory

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This suggests that there are separate pathways to visual and spatial information.

Also, the case study of LH, who suffered brain damage as a result of a road accident, showed better performance on tasks of a visual nature than in spatial tasks. This supports there being two systems.

However, most real-life tasks require both components, which limits the usefulness of the separate components.

Episodic buffer

Baddeley (2000) added the episodic buffer to the model, which allows for the integration of information from different sources. It can be considered a 'general store' as the central executive cannot store information. As a component, it also has a limited capacity.

Why do we need the episodic buffer?

Baddeley et al. (1987) found that while participants could remember only about 7 words in a sentence. This suggests that the information is integrated with information in the long-term memory store. This can be accounted for by the episodic buffer, which can interact with long-term memory, as proposed by the model.

Chincotta et al. (1999) looked at memory for Arabic numerals (e.g. 1, 2, 3...) and found that participants used both verbal and spatial information, and the phonological loop and the visuospatial sketch pad, the binding must occur somewhere. Baddeley and Wilson (2002) also noted several amnesic patients who did not have long-term memories but could recall stories from their short-term store. The stories recalled were more than what the phonological loop could store, which argues for the existence of an episodic buffer. This supports the idea of an episodic buffer as temporary storage.

The McGurk effect (McGurk and MacDonald, 1976) – you won't believe your ears, or rather, you shouldn't!

The McGurk effect occurs when two different syllables are presented at the same time, one in visual and the other in auditory, which results in hearing a third syllable which has not been presented at all. For example, if you hear 'ba' and see 'ga' you hear 'da'.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G-IN8vWm3m0>

Watch this video and you can see evidence that information from our eyes and ears are bound together. Then shut your eyes and listen to the video; our eyes will no longer be a factor and you will hear what is really being said.

The really interesting thing about this is that even knowing about the effect of the McGurk effect, you still experience it!

The McGurk effect provides evidence for the episodic buffer as it suggests that information from different sources is bound together for a short amount of time.

More difficult to study

The episodic buffer is harder to study than other components such as the phonological loop. This is because studies have to be careful that they focus on the episodic buffer and not confuse the results with the individual components themselves.

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Long-term memory

The working memory model argues that the processing of short-term memory content is transferred to a long-term memory store.

This is a significant advantage as it explains how we show an advantage in remembering individual letters – we have accessed semantic meaning which is stored in our long-term memory.

Classic study: Working memory model: the influence of acoustic similarity on long-term memory for word sequences (Baddeley, 1966b)

This research was conducted by Alan Baddeley, who later (with Hitch) went on to develop the working memory model. This study, along with others at this time, illustrated that memory was more than just a storage of information. It prompted further investigation and the development of the working memory model.

The first two experiments

A series of three experiments were conducted; the third experiment is the most important. The first two experiments provide important background.

Experiment 1: Baddeley began by trying to test long-term memory. He devised an experiment where participants heard one of four lists of 10 words. One list contained acoustically similar words, another list contained semantically similar words and the final two lists were control lists of equal frequency. The lists were presented to participants which participants spent 20 minutes on a different task and were then asked to recall the words.

Baddeley expected that participants who had the acoustic word lists would recall more words than participants who had the semantic word lists. This is because he believed that long-term memory was based on semantic encoding and, therefore, would get mixed up when the meanings of words were similar.

However, confusingly, Baddeley found that there was no effect for semantic similarity. The acoustic list, however, was more difficult to recall.

Experiment 2: Baddeley considered that Experiment 1 may not just been testing long-term memory. With a delay of 20 minutes, it was clear that long-term memory must be involved in the recall. In the first trials the lists were immediately recalled, and so it was likely that short-term memory was involved. The list using acoustically similar words was more difficult to recall due to the fact that the words were more similar acoustically.

In Experiment 2, participants performed an interference task to cancel out the effect of the delay. The task occurred between the presentation of each list and the recall. The experiment was designed to control for semantic similarity. Participants who had been given semantically similar words were more likely to recall more words.

The third experiment

In the final experiment, Baddeley wanted to use the technique that he had established in the first two experiments. He decided to use a projector because the hearing problems of his participants were a problem.

Aim:

To investigate how short-term and long-term memories are encoded.

Method:

72 participants were assigned to learn one of four lists:

List A – 10 acoustically similar words (e.g. man, can, cab, etc.)

List B – 10 acoustically dissimilar words which had been matched to List A for frequency (e.g. few, etc.)

List C – 10 semantically similar words (e.g. large, big, huge, etc.)

List D – 10 semantically dissimilar words which had been matched to List A for frequency (e.g. huge, etc.)

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There were two conditions:

- Acoustically similar condition used List A and a control group used List B
- Semantically similar condition used List C and a control group used List D

Each participant only ever saw one list.

A projector was used to present the words one every three seconds in the correct order. Participants completed tasks on memory for digits. After this, participants were asked to recall the word sequence in the correct order. This was repeated for four learning trials. The word sequence, in the correct order, was present in the room because the interest was in whether they could recall the words.

After the four learning trials, participants completed a 15-minute interference task. They were then asked to recall the word sequences. Finally, there was one final surprise recall test in which participants had to recall the words in the correct order.

Results:

Acoustically similar condition: Baddeley compared the acoustically similar words to the control group. Initially, participants with the acoustically similar words found it difficult, but their performance improved until it overtook the control group (not statistically significant). Between the learning trials and the recall test, the scores are very similar. This is evidence that long-term memory does not rely on the similarity of words because the participants have not forgotten the list.

Semantically similar condition: The order of semantically similar words gets confused. It is more difficult to learn. Participants recalled significantly fewer semantically similar words than dissimilar words.

Conclusions:

The initial difficulty in recalling the word orders in List A suggests that short-term memory is used to encode words that sound similar because they get confused.

Baddeley used this research to conclude that long-term memory encodes semantic information. Short-term memory becomes confused when presented with several semantically similar words. In contrast, participants do not struggle with acoustically similar words because the sound is not used in encoding.

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Task 1.1 Evaluation

Consider the information above and use the boxes below to evaluate Baddeley (1986) the third experiment. Make sure you support your statement by referring to the evidence from Baddeley's study, and then relate this evidence back to the evaluation point. The first one has been done for you.

Reliability is the extent to which findings can be replicated and are shown to be of **good/poor** reliability because...

... he used standardised procedures. Each participant saw the words on the page at the same time, experienced the same interference task and recalled the list after the same delay. This suggests that the study could be easily replicated by following the precise instructions and procedures. Baddeley's Experiment 3 was a replication of his second experiment, with the same findings, which suggests good reliability.

Generalisability is the extent to which findings can be applied to the population to which the study was applied and not just the participants. Baddeley's study has good/poor generalisability because...

Internal validity is the extent to which the findings are the result of manipulating the independent variable. Baddeley's study has good/poor internal validity because...

Ecological validity is the extent to which the findings can be generalised to real life situations. Baddeley's study has good/poor ecological validity because....

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Features of the model

Coding in the working memory model

Remembering that the working memory model is an account of short-term memory is primarily phonologically based. The primary component involved is the phonological store automatically, whereas the same word presented visually would be converted into a phonological code. This type of working memory is often called 'verbal working memory' and includes spoken words and written words (these are 'mentally spoken').

However, the visuospatial sketch pad is considered to be responsible for visual information that might be used when remembering where objects are in your environment. The visuospatial sketch pad is responsible for instances of visual information being stored when the capacity of the phonological store is full. Brandimonte et al.'s (1992) study of acoustic encoding was prevented by repeating words, but participants were still able to redraw a picture shown to them while under these conditions. This suggests access to a visual encoding system as suggested by the visuospatial sketch pad.

Capacity in the working memory model

Remembering, once again, that the working memory model is an account of short-term memory, working memory is limited. This is important because a person can only do a task if they have the capacity to hold all the information needed. For example, when trying to complete a complex task, it is difficult to try to hold all the subcalculations.

The limited capacity of working memory itself is a reflection of the limited capacity of the model. All components (besides long-term memory) have a limited capacity. If you try to do two tasks at the same time using the same component, their performance is reduced.

Testing working memory capacity

Tests look at how well you can 'juggle' information in your mind, and capacity can be tested by seeing how much information this is.

Try out the following. Showing a line at a time, quickly work out whether the answer is 'yes' or 'no' and then try to memorise the word next to it. Do this quickly and then at the end of the list.

$(5 \times 2) - 4 = 4?$	LAMP
$(3 \times 5) - 6 = 9?$	EARTH
$(8 \times 3) - 2 = 22?$	SEA
$(2 \times 4) + 3 = 13?$	STOVE
$(9 \times 3) - 5 = 21?$	TABLE
$(4 \times 7) + 6 = 34?$	TREE

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Practical applications of working memory



How important is working memory capacity?

It has been suggested that differences in working memory capacity may underlie reasoning ability (Kyllonen et al., 1999). In a study, participants complete a number of tests of reasoning ability, and assessed their working memory capacity. The results showed they were strongly related. There have been many studies that show differences in working memory capacity. If working memory underlies information processing, then individual differences in our abilities for a broader range of tasks. This leads to the proposition that working memory has significant implications for general success in education.

Working memory capacity has been linked to academic achievement.

Applications to education

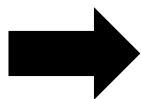
There are individual differences in working memory, and educational approaches should be adapted for those who have working memory problems. The most common sign in the classroom is children who forget instructions because they have forgotten what the instructions are. Teachers can reduce demands on these children by the way they teach. For example, if given a complex task, they might get lost and give up on the task. The teacher can reduce working memory demands by breaking instructions into steps. Teachers should also help students cope with situations where they have working memory problems. For example, children should be encouraged to ask for the instructions if they are abandoning the task.

Early detection of dyslexia

Developmental dyslexia is characterised by difficulties in reading, and children with dyslexia struggle with tasks such as spelling, understanding the meaning of what they are reading and copying text. One proposed explanation is that individuals with dyslexia have a working memory deficit. Dyslexics do not code phonological information as efficiently as those without dyslexia, so they have to cope with the demands of reading.

Turner and Bodien (2007) identified a number of warning signs that suggest a child has dyslexia. These included reading without processing meaning, ignoring inferences in text, not attending to punctuation and ignoring punctuation.

Keeping in mind this working memory deficit in dyslexia has implications for how we teach. For example, dyslexic children find it more difficult to decode a sentence and, therefore, they struggle to understand the meaning of the writing. One possible solution is to analyse the paragraph and encourage focusing on the content. Spelling of words can also be a source of difficulty. Providing a list of key words on the desk can help these children when they encounter difficulties.



Key question: How can knowledge of working memory be used to support children with dyslexia?

Individuals with dyslexia have problems with their working memory and also have difficulties with reading. Their poor working memory makes it difficult for them to concentrate on tasks with a high working memory demand. It is difficult to hold several pieces of phonological information in their mind, which makes it difficult to blend sounds (e.g. blending the sounds /t/ /i/ /ck/ to make the word tick). They read more slowly and struggle with associating the sounds with the words, and they may miss the meaning of the text by focusing on other aspects of the process.

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Below we will examine two different approaches to how knowledge of working memory

Classroom approach

A classroom approach to dyslexia involves educators altering their style of teaching dyslexic students and their working memory problems.

Many of these strategies involve reducing the working memory demands made on the student:

- Keeping instructions simple
- Breaking down tasks into steps
- Presenting written information concisely
- Giving students enough time to process information
- Using checklists and homework books to keep track of tasks to be done

Other strategies involve targeting the phonological problems:

- Teaching students mnemonics to learn how to spell difficult words
- Putting a list of key vocabulary that will be used in the lesson on the whiteboard
- Using clear, large fonts
- Practising phonological skills; for example, blending
- Using coloured reading rulers which help dyslexics focus on reading a line
- Using audio and visual methods of learning

Employing these methods consistently has been shown to help dyslexics in the classroom. Children have differing needs for their dyslexia and this may not be enough help for all. These children benefit from more focused phonological skill development in small groups.

Direct interventions

There have been a number of programmes developed specifically to target dyslexia and low reading ability.

One such programme is Fast ForWord Language. Fast ForWord Language is a computer programme to improve reading proficiency by targeting areas such as working memory, comprehension and phonological awareness through brain exercises.

Temple et al. (2003) investigated whether the programme Fast ForWord was effective. The effects could be seen on brain scans.

Method: Conducted a study which involved a phonological processing task (pushing a button if two letters were the same, e.g. T and D), a non-phonological task (pushing a button if two letters were different, e.g. T and F) and a non-letter baseline task (pushing a button if two lines were the same orientation, e.g. two horizontal lines). Dyslexic children (aged 8–12 years old) performed these tasks while being scanned by an fMRI machine. Some children used the Fast ForWord Language programme for 100 minutes per day, five days a week, for 10 training days. The children then repeated the same tasks in the fMRI machine. The results were compared before and after the intervention. Their results were compared with non-dyslexic controls.

Behavioural results: The dyslexic children showed an improvement in reading ability and passage comprehension. They also showed an improvement in their oral language, although the extent of the improvement varied between the children.

fMRI results: After the intervention, increased activity was shown in the left temporoparietal cortex and left inferior frontal gyrus in the dyslexic children. Prior to the intervention, these areas were underactive compared to non-dyslexic controls. The left temporoparietal cortex had previously been found to be involved in phonological processing. The increase in activity in this area is not quite large enough to match the activity patterns seen in non-dyslexic controls.

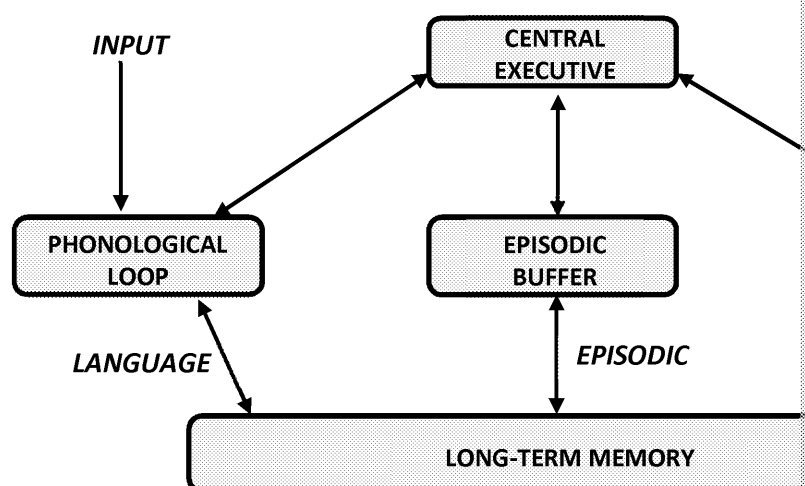


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Conclusions: This suggests that computerised interventions such as Fast ForWord building working memory and phonological skills can lead to changes in brain function. This illustrates that children can benefit from this programme, but the long-term effects are still unclear.

The model



Overall evaluation

Individual differences

The model can account for individual differences; for example, Shah and Miyake found that children with good spatial ability were strongly associated with spatial working memory but not verbal working memory. This suggests that there can be individual variability in types of short-term memory.

Individual differences: processing speed

Overall, the working memory model only speaks in general terms about memory differences. However, we know that working memory and other functions can vary between individuals. Processing speed is how fast you process, use or comprehend information. Individual differences in processing speed, and a slow processing speed, especially in a classroom environment, can be a problem. A child with a slow processing speed take much longer to complete tasks, which is especially true for tasks that require working memory. The combination of processing speed and short-term memory capacity can account for some individual differences in working memory performance.

Automatic behaviour

The working memory model, although it does not explicitly refer to automatic behaviour, can account for it. Automatic behaviour has reduced attentional demands, which allows for being able to do two tasks at once.

Still more to do

The most important component, the central executive, is still not that well understood. The central executive is too vague and is just a name for processes that are not understood. More research is required on the episodic buffer, which is more difficult to investigate.

Multiple components to the central executive

It is likely that there are multiple components to the central executive, as shown by the research. Some central executive tasks but not others.

Only an account of short-term memory

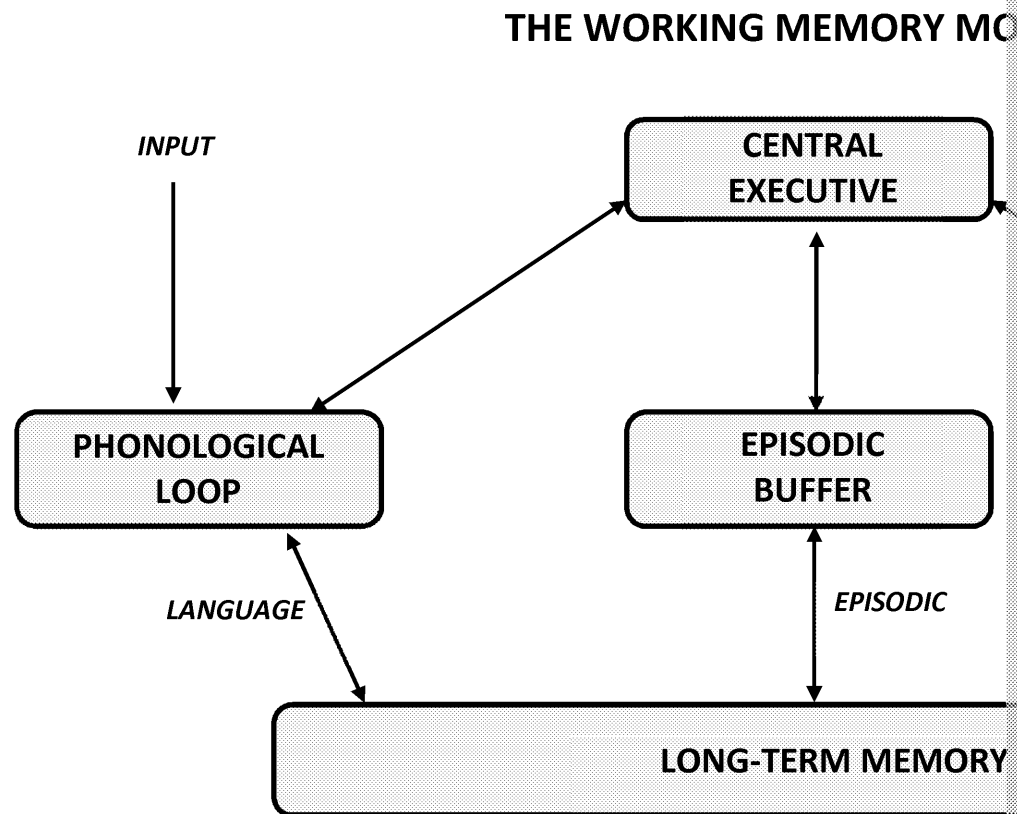
The working memory model only really accounts for short-term memory and little for long-term memory. The components interact with long-term memory.

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Task: Annotate it!

Annotate the model with explanations of what each feature does in the model.



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Chapter 1 Activities

Check your understanding!

- Q1. Briefly outline what working memory is. (2 marks)
- Q2. Explain the purpose of the episodic buffer. (3 marks)
- Q3. What does the working memory model say about performing multiple tasks?
- Q4. Describe how visual and spatial memory can be assessed separately. (4 marks)

Exam-style questions

- Q1. An experiment was conducted to investigate the working memory model. Group 1 carried out two visual tasks at the same time. Group 2 carried out a visual task and a verbal task at the same time. Group 1 performed much worse on the verbal task than Group 2 did on their visual and verbal tasks.

Explain, using the working memory model, why this pattern of performance occurred.

- Q2. Dual tasks are used in cognitive psychology to try to determine which processes are shared and which are separate.

Describe dual tasks as a method of investigating human processing resources.

- Q3. Tommy has dyslexia and is struggling in his English class. He finds it difficult to read the text than his other classmates and that sometimes he misses the meaning of the text altogether.

Explain, using the working memory model, why Tommy is having difficulty.

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Chapter 2: The Multi-store Model of

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Overview

In this chapter we examine Atkinson and Shiffrin's multi-store model of memory which represents memory as having three separate memory 'stores': a sensory register, a short-term store (STM), and a long-term store (LTM). We will look at the features of each of these stores, how they relate to one another in the model and the evidence related to there being three separate stores. Finally, we will examine the strengths and weaknesses of the model and conclude on its usefulness.

Learning outcomes

After studying this chapter you should be able to:

- ☐ Describe the different stores of the multi-store model, in relation to duration and coding
- ☐ Describe the model as a whole, including maintenance and rehearsal
- ☐ Consider the evidence for there being three separate stores
- ☐ Identify the strengths and weaknesses of the model and conclude on its usefulness

Key Terms

Attention	Focus necessary to move sensory information into short-term memory
Capacity	How much information can be held in a store
Chunking	Reducing the amount of information we have to remember by using a technique that improves short-term memory
Duration	How long a memory lasts before we can no longer recall it
Elaborative rehearsal	Organising and creating associations by linking the new material to existing knowledge
Encoding	How information changes to be stored in memory
Free recall	Able to recall the items in any order, as opposed to a specific order like a phone number
Long-term memory	Our memory for past events (that is longer than our short-term memory)
Maintenance rehearsal	Rehearsal by repetition of the information
Primacy effect	When information we are exposed to first is better recalled than information in the middle
Recency effect	When information we are exposed to last is recalled better than information in the middle
Rehearsal	Mentally repeating information to maintain the memory
Retrieval	Accessing the stored memory
Sensory memory	The store where sensory information is inputted
Serial position effect	An effect whereby the order of information changes our ability to recall it
Short-term memory	Our immediate memory
Unitary store	A store that operates as one; if damaged, it should stop the flow of information to this store



Scene-Setting Questions

- What techniques might you use to remember a phone number?
- Is there an expiration date on our memories?
- What distinguishes the memories we quickly forget from the ones we don't?

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The multi-store model (Atkinson and Shiffrin,

Atkinson and Shiffrin (1968) proposed a model of memory called the 'multi-store' model, consisting of a short-term store, a long-term store and a sensory register.

Why do we need models of memory?

The cognitive approach focuses on how we process different types of information, and researchers who follow this approach create models that aim to explain this process. Atkinson and Shiffrin's model was an early endeavour to explain memory using a model.

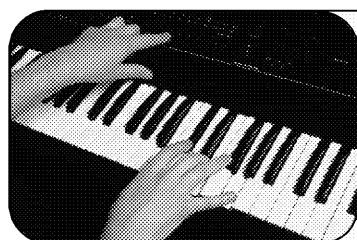
Previous attempts to understand memory used the method of introspection. Introspection involves examining the content of thoughts and analysing the internal mental processes. Components are identified and the researchers try to understand the relationship between the components. However, only the person themselves knows what is inside their mind, which makes it difficult to test accurately and reliably.

The multi-store model represents an early attempt to make explanations of memory. It generates precise predictions about memory which can be tested using experiments.

How models are developed

Cognitive models of memory do not tell us exactly how memory works. Instead they are based on current findings and offer a proposal of how memory works. The model is evaluated against evidence. If the evidence fits in with the present model, it is accepted. When evidence fails to be accounted for by the model, the model is revised or a new model is proposed (or in some cases the new information is ignored).

One type of evidence often used in cognitive research is research conducted on brain damage. For example, the model we are about to discuss below, the multi-store model, suggests that there are three stores of memory: a sensory register, a short-term store and a long-term store. However, research on Clive Wearing, who suffered from a rare brain infection, found that some of his long-term memories were intact (for example, he could remember his time studying at university). This goes against the multi-store model, which argues that there is just one unitary store of long-term memory. Later models of memory have been developed which illustrate how new evidence must be accounted for.



Note: Many areas of psychology ignore the findings of research that do not fit with the current model. Individuals who go against the current model are considered to be anomalies and ignored. However, in cognitive psychology, a single individual can be used to develop a model.

How do we gain evidence of the multi-store model?

Atkinson and Shiffrin (1968) proposed that their model was composed of a sensory register, a short-term store and a long-term store. In order to assess whether they are correct, we need to establish distinct differences between each store.

We do this by examining three factors:

- Duration: How long the memories last
- Capacity: How much information can be held
- Encoding: How the information is converted for use in the brain

If the components are found to be different, then this supports the multi-store model. If they are not, then these stores are not distinct.

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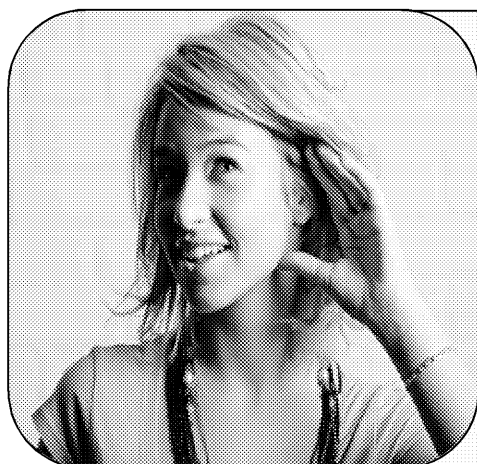


Sensory register (also known as the sensory store)

The amount of information we receive from our different senses at one time is enormous. The sensory register holds the information from our different perceptual senses. The sensory register stores information for each sense, with the three most extensively studied being iconic memory (visual information), echoic memory (auditory information), and haptic memory (touch and body sensations, e.g. pain).

Duration – how long do sensory memories last?

Given the large amount of information that comes into the sensory register at any one moment, there is too much information to be kept; as such, the duration of sensory memory is very short, with memories lasting approximately 200 milliseconds to a few seconds.



Real life: 'Sorry, what did you say?'

Imagine the scenario: *You're concentrating on your work and a family member knocks on the door. You don't quite catch what they said, so you ask them to repeat it before they've had a chance to say anything else. You remember exactly what was said.*

This is evidence of the duration of echoic memory. The information is still in the sensory register so you were able to hear what was said. Research suggests that echoic memory can last up to four seconds.

Capacity – how much information can the sensory register hold?

Iconic memory – visual information

Sperling (1960) studied the capacity of iconic memory by asking people to recall letters that were shown on a grid for 50 milliseconds. He found that on average participants recalled four or five out of the 12 items, indicating that this was the capacity of iconic memory. However, participants reported saying that they saw more items than they could recall.

In a second part of the study, participants were cued for which row to remember by a tone that occurred immediately after the presentation. Participants in this version recalled three out of the four items in the row, suggesting that all of the items are in iconic memory but that it decays rapidly.

In reality, a huge amount of information comes into our sensory register and, as such, however, very little of this information is transferred into our short-term memory. The role of attention in transferring information from a sensory register to our short-term memory is impossible to attend to all the information at once.

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Encoding – how is sensory information encoded?

Sensory encoding appears to be dependent on sense, which leads to the proposal that there are actually formed of different stores for each sense.

For example:

Acoustic encoding: Encoding auditory information

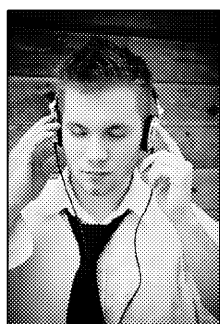
Visual encoding: Encoding visual information

Tactile encoding: Encoding how something feels

The distinction between the different types of sensory registers has been reflected in the involvement of different brain areas. For example, the tactile sense is related to the primary somatosensory cortex. In contrast, the amygdala has been related to visual encoding.

Attention – how do we decide what gets encoded to the next stage?

An enormous amount of sensory information is received by organs but not all of it is processed. Individuals do not have control over what sensory memories are processed. Sensory information that is not attended to is likely to be transferred into the short-term store.



The 'cocktail-party effect' is that at a party we can hear many conversations but only focus on just one and ignore the others. Cherry (1953) used a dichotic listening task (different messages are heard in different ears) and asked participants to repeat the message coming into just one ear. Participants were able to repeat the message asked to attend to but not the message in the other ear. However, when a message was heard in the other ear, this grabbed the participant's attention and they could remember this. However, participants did not *choose* to listen to the message in the other ear; they subconsciously attended to it. This suggests that we are processing more auditory information than we are aware of but attention filters out what is not important.

Short-term memory store (STM store)

Short-term memory is your memory for immediate events and it has three key features:

- 1) A limited capacity of information it can hold
- 2) A short duration that the memory lasts for
- 3) Generally acoustically encoded

Duration – how long do short-term memories last?

One of the key distinguishing features between short-term memory and long-term memory is the duration which it lasts for before you can no longer remember it. Short-term memory lasts a very short time unless we rehearse it. Rehearsal involves mentally repeating the memory over and over again; in theory, a short-term memory could last indefinitely if rehearsed.

Duration without rehearsal – the Brown–Peterson technique (Peterson and Peterson, 1959)

- The Brown–Peterson technique uses a distractor task to prevent rehearsal of the information.
- They presented a trigram (a group of three consonants which has no meaning, for example, ZHR) and then asked participants to count backwards in threes from the trigram to prevent rehearsal.
- Counting back in threes was to prevent rehearsal, and the time spent counting backwards (3, 6, 9, 12, 15, or 18 seconds) was varied (this was termed the 'retention interval').
- They found that approximately 90% of information was remembered after a three-second delay; nearly 70% was forgotten after a nine-second delay and 90% after an 18-second delay.
- This suggests that the actual duration of short-term memory in the absence of rehearsal is very short.

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Try it!

Work in pairs:

- 1) One person writes a trigram (examples: XPL, GHT, MVN) on a sheet of paper and shows it to the other person for a few seconds.
- 2) The second person has to count aloud backwards in threes from a random number.
- 3) Use a phone, watch or stopwatch to record the time interval; you could try to recall it, then try 18 seconds.
- 4) At the end of the time, ask the person to recall the trigram.

How successful were they?

- Could the person remember the whole trigram?
- Could they remember part of the trigram (were there partial memories)?
- Which parts were recalled and which parts were not? Was the order correct?
- Could any of the letters have been confused with similar-sounding or looking letters?

Short-term memories were thought to simply decay over time and this led to the forgetting curve. Nairne et al. (1999) argued that by using different items in each trial, it decreased the chance of items to interfere with one another. They repeated the study and found that using the same items led to faster forgetting. They found that participants could recall an item for as long as 96 seconds. Items compete with each other for recall and newer items overwrite the older ones.

Capacity – how much information can the short-term store hold?

If someone told you their mobile number and asked you to ring it in a minute, the chances are you would have forgotten it before you dialled. In the UK, mobile-phone numbers are 11 digits long – too long to be remembered by our short-term memory.

Jacobs (1887) used a digit span technique to test short-term memory; he presented a single digit to a participant and asked them to recall it, then he added a second digit and asked the participant to recall these in order; he kept adding digits until the participant made a mistake. The number of correct digits was termed their 'digit span'.

Try it!

Investigate your own short-term memory: for each of the strings below, cover up a group of consonants and try to recall it, then move on to recalling the first two consonants. Stop when you get it wrong.

7	9	6	3	6	1	5	4	8	4	9
L	T	M	O	D	Q	S	C	H	X	R

CHAIR FISH HILL RAIN GIANT QUARTZ HEART YACHT GRASS BOOK RAKE B...

How many of the list did you remember? Compare this number to a classmate's.
Do you notice any trends in the ones you remember?
What about the ones you seem to forget?

Jacobs (1887) found that participants could correctly recall an average of 9.3 digits. He thought this was because there were only nine possible digits, whereas there were 26 letters in the alphabet.

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Chunking

Increasing our short-term memory capacity

Miller (1956) examined digit span research and found that the average digit span was 7 items; this was termed 'the magic number 7 ± 2 '. He also found that we can recall letters; we 'chunk' things together to help remember them. For example, rather than 1-9-7-4, we chunk it together as one. However, Cowan (2001) reviewed research and found that the 'magic number' was actually four chunks.

Returning to the earlier example, if you managed to recall the words 'CHAIR FISH', you have actually recalled 22 letters but these have been chunked together into five word chunks. If you recall the phrase, this could also be considered one chunk.

However, Simon (1974) found that we could remember fewer large chunks, such as longer words, than shorter chunks such as single words.

Try it!

Returning to remembering mobile numbers, chunking is a useful technique for remembering them. Take the completely fictitious number 08867021940 and try to remember it. It is difficult because we are trying to remember 11 separate digits: 0 8 8 6 7 0 2 1 9 4 0. However, we could separate it into chunks: 088 67 02 19 40 and try to remember it.

Try it now with some real phone numbers – now might be a good time to learn the number of an emergency!

How do we gain evidence of the multi-store model?

Note that here we can see there are similarities in the capacity between the sensory register and the short-term memory store. Both seem to be able to hold about four or five pieces of information. One possible modification is to remove the sensory register. However, the duration of the short-term memory store is different with a much faster decay occurring for sensory information. Therefore, the evidence supports the multi-store model.

Encoding – how is short-term memory changed so that it can be stored?

Typically acoustically

Conrad (1964) showed participants a list of six consonants (e.g. HBJMDN) for less than a second and then asked participants to immediately write down the consonants they had seen. He found that participants frequently mistook consonants for ones that sounded similar (e.g. B was mistaken for P). Letters that looked visually similar but sounded dissimilar were less likely to be mistaken (e.g. D was rarely mistaken for O). From this Conrad concluded that short-term memory was encoded acoustically (by sound).



However, although it appears from Conrad's experiment that written visual tasks cannot generalise this to all types of short-term memory.

Shulman (1970) showed lists of 10 words to participants and recall was tested after 30 seconds. Cues were either:

- Homonyms – words that mean different things but sound the same – e.g. pear/pair
- Synonyms – words that mean the same thing but sound different – e.g. pear/fruit
- Words identical to the original list

He found recall errors from both homonym and synonym cue words and argued that short-term memory can be encoded acoustically and semantically.

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Therefore, Shulman's evidence, unlike Conrad's, showed that encoding in STM does not rely on acoustic encoding; rather it uses both acoustic and visual coding.

Both Conrad and Shulman used laboratory experiments, which are advantageous as they can control and isolate a variable in order to investigate how this variable affects memory. However, laboratory tasks (how often are we asked to remember groups of six consonants?) makes it difficult to generalise. Real-life memory may work in a very different way from what these experiments suggest. Things we need to remember in real life are very different (low mundane realism). For example, arbitrary labels, they may differ from a list of consonants as there is a great importance to remembering names to succeed socially, and the 'importance' of the information may make it more memorable.

Sometimes visually

Although for the most part short-term memories are encoded acoustically, there are instances when visual encoding is used.

Brandimonte et al. (1992) showed participants pictures to remember and prevented them from repeating the words. The participants repeatedly say 'la la la'. Participants were successfully able to recall the pictures, suggesting that they had visually encoded them.

This suggests that while for the majority of the time acoustic encoding is used, encoding is not restricted to just acoustic encoding.

Rehearsal: from the short-term to the long-term

'All sorts of ideas, if left to themselves, are gradually forgotten' (Ebbinghaus, 1885). Craik and Lockhart (1972) criticised the original model which simply referred to 'rote rehearsal'. They introduced 'maintenance rehearsal' and 'elaborative rehearsal' which were accepted in later revisions of the model.

Maintenance rehearsal:

Maintenance rehearsal is the process of repeating the information as it is over and over again to keep the information to be accessible in short-term memory.

For example, if asked to remember the sequence 'H8Y25' you might remember it by repeating it over and over again, learning by 'rote'.

Elaborative rehearsal:

Elaborative rehearsal involves examining the deeper meaning and connecting it to other information. Elaborative rehearsal is the process by which memories are transferred from the short-term store to the long-term store.

For example, using the same example of 'H8Y25', it may be easier if you consider 'H' is the 8th letter of the alphabet and that 'Y' is the 25th letter.

A greater amount of 'rehearsal' does not necessarily lead to long-term memory storage. 'Elaborative rehearsal' makes transference to the long-term store more likely.

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Long-term memory store (LTM store)

Duration – how long do long-term memories last?

Long-term memories may theoretically last forever:



Baird et al. (1975) used high-school yearbooks to test the long-term memories of ex-students. They tested ex-students aged 17 to 74 in several ways:

- Asked to free recall as many names as they could of their old classmates
- Asked to identify photographs of their classmates mixed in with other photographs of non-classmates
- Asked whether they recognised the names of their classmates when mixed in
- Asked to put names to faces

In tests of recall, participants were 20% accurate after 47 years

In tests of recognition, participants were 90% accurate after 20 years and 60% accurate after 47 years

They found that recognition was better than recall memory, presumably because for the information, merely decide whether they have seen it before.

Real-life examples:

- Being unable to remember an old teacher's name but recognising it instantly
- It is harder to answer an open-ended question than a multiple-choice question
- Desktop icons use recognition by pairing a related image to a function; we click on the icon each time, we simply click straight away

How do we gain evidence of the multi-store model?

Contrast this study with Peterson and Peterson's (1959) study of short-term memory. There is a significant difference between the two models in terms of duration. This is because it suggests that they are distinct systems.

Issues and debates: practical issues in the design and implementation of long-term memory studies

It can be very difficult for psychologists to investigate long-term memories. One issue is that individuals who have memory loss are from a different generation and their lives have been shaped through social media as ours have been.

Without detailed records, one problem a psychologist may face is determining whether a participant has a specific memory of the event or if they simply have a general idea what might have happened. For example, the question 'Do you remember your eighth birthday?' You might respond, 'Yes. I had a party at home and there was a cake and presents.' In this scenario, do you really remember your eighth birthday? Or do you just know what an eighth birthday party might be like?

One study which investigated long-term memory was Baird et al. (1975), and it used yearbooks to investigate long-term memory duration. Baird et al. asked participants to identify a right or wrong answer. If participants could recall or match the name to the photograph, they were given a point. This meant that it was easier to objectively study whether participants could recall names of their classmates.

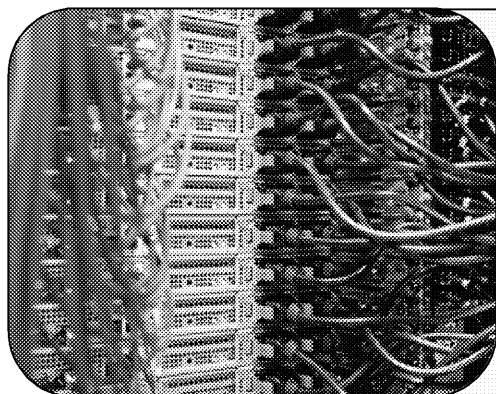
Additionally, by investigating recognition using the photographs, Baird was able to show that participants had long-term memories that they may not have been able to fully access. His study showed that participants could recognise photos of their classmates among other photos even when they could not recall the names. This suggests that we may have far more long-term memories than initially thought. This would not have been possible simply asking participants about their memories because participants had limited verbal skills and would not be able to verbalise it.

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Capacity – how much can the long-term store hold?

Since memories in the long-term store may last infinitely long, it makes theoretical sense to say the long-term memory store has infinite capacity. In truth, it is impossible to test, as retrieval failure is more likely due to a loss of accessibility rather than a loss of information; it reflects a problem with accessibility rather than capacity.



Makes you wonder...

In an age of ever-increasing life expectancy, how will we cope? What might happen if our long-term store has infinite capacity but simply one that has a limited ability to lose our old memories or be unable to retrieve them?

Technology has allowed us to dramatically increase the amount of information we can store, but what happens when we have more information than we can keep?

Encoding – how are long-term memories encoded?

Baddeley (1966b) showed participants 10 words in four lists:

- Acoustically similar (sound alike), e.g. bought, taut, fought
- Acoustically dissimilar (do not sound alike), e.g. beyond, line, grape
- Semantically similar (mean similar things), e.g. happy, cheerful, glad
- Semantically dissimilar (mean different things), e.g. table, fear, kneel

Recall was worse when long-term memories of semantically similar words were used rather than semantically dissimilar words.

This suggests that long-term memories of verbal information are encoded semantically.

Information can also be encoded into long-term memory:

- 👁 Visually: for example, Paivio (1986) argues that we create and use mental images and we can recall both the word and the image of an object
- 👂 Acoustically: for example, encoding songs and music based on how they sound

Incidental learning

You can remember information that you have not intended to learn but have learned while doing something else. Sitting down with the aim of learning information is likely only in the real world we simply learn how to do something without trying...

For example, we may learn that a '.doc' file means that it is a Microsoft Word Document. We did not intend to learn what a '.doc' file was, we simply learnt it unintentionally.

How well information is encoded is not dependent on intention. This is a limitation of the idea that attention and rehearsal are key processes involved in storing information. The fact that we can learn something incidentally goes against the idea that more focus and rehearsal lead to better long-term memory.

When we went to the store and bought some milk...

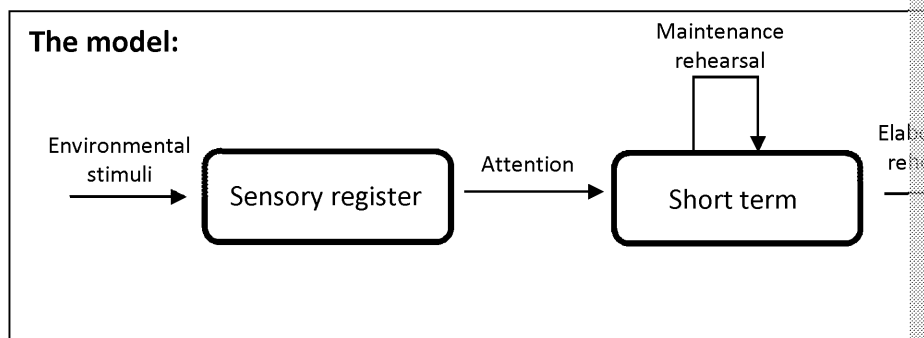
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The multi-store model

As discussed, the multi-store model describes the structure of the memory system

- Sensory registers that hold information specific to each sense for a very brief time
- A short-term store that holds information but is very limited in capacity
- A long-term store that has theoretically unlimited capacity and duration



How do we gain evidence of the multi-store model?

At the beginning of the chapter we remarked that in order to examine the support for the model, we need to establish whether the duration, capacity and encoding were different in each of the stores. If the model is correct, the model are all found to be different, this supports the model, as it suggests that the model is correct.

The multi-store model: an information processing model

The multi-store model of memory can be considered an information processing model. The multi-store model can be likened to a computer, with an input, processing and an output.

Input: The information enters our memory through our senses onto our sensory register.

Processes: Processes such as attention, maintenance rehearsal and elaborative rehearsal are used to process the information so that it can be stored and recalled.

Storage: Information is stored in our short-term and long-term stores.

Output: Recall is dependent on the processes and storage in the previous stages.

The stores in the multi-store model can be likened to computer hardware. Computer memory is called RAM. RAM memory is used to store information that is being used at the time. It is very quickly but is not being stored permanently. This is similar to the idea of short-term store in the multi-store model. Computers also use more permanent memory storage such as hard drives. Information takes a longer time to access but is kept there indefinitely. This is similar to the long-term store in the multi-store model.

Like computers, the multi-store model uses serial processing with one task needing to be completed before the next can start. A criticism of this is that the human mind uses parallel processing, with several tasks being completed at the same time.

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Task 2.1

Use this table to form your own conclusions about the model. Fill in what suggests about each of the stores. Conclude on whether the stores are different and support the model.

	Duration	Capacity
The sensory register		
The short-term store		
The long-term store		
Based on the evidence above, the multi-store model is...		

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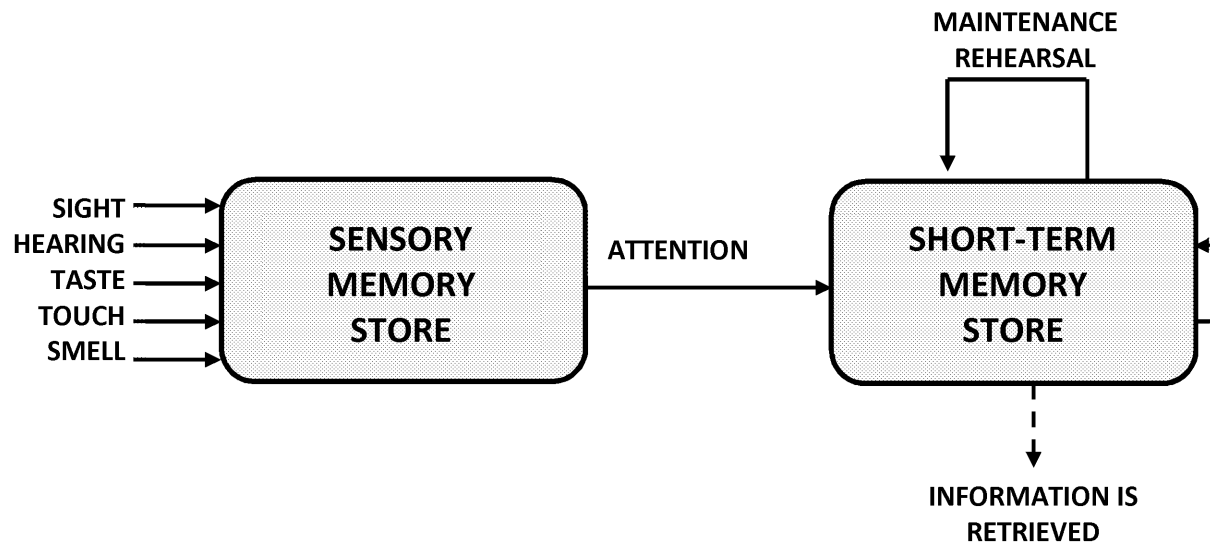
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Task 2.2: Annotate it!

Annotate the model with explanations of what each feature does in the model (don't forget process)

THE MULTI-STORE MODEL



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Evaluation of the multi-store model

The serial position effect

One supporting piece of evidence for the multi-store model is that it can explain the serial position effect.

Glanzer and Cunitz (1966) had participants hear a list of words and then recall the words either immediately or after an interference task. They found that when participants recalled words immediately, the first words on the list (primacy effect) and the last words were recalled better than the words in the middle. The primacy effect was explained by having rehearsed these words more and transferred them into long-term memory. The recency effect is explained by the fact that these words are still in short-term memory.

This provides evidence that the short-term and long-term memory stores are distinct.

Try it!

Investigate the serial position effect by having one student (or the teacher) read out the words in the list below in order) and then, when they have finished, write down as many as you can remember.

LAKE CHICKEN NAIL TRAIN DOG BALLOON KITE JUMPER
CUP RUG BRAIN PURSE PHONE WIND EGG VASE YACHT

Compare your results to the original list. Did you follow the classic serial position effect? Did any of the words in the middle stick out for any particular reason? You could have a control variable, as you were already cued to remember the item.

If you made any errors, were they acoustic errors (where you mistake a word for another word that sounds similar) or semantic errors (where you mistake a word for another word that has a similar meaning)? This would be evidence that short-term memories are encoded acoustically.

Real-life applications

Research has shown that we generally recall the first and last things best and 'forget' the things in the middle. To make an effective argument you could take advantage of this by presenting your points at the beginning and at the end:

A lawyer could arrange witnesses so that the most substantial witnesses are at the beginning and end of the testimony.

In an effective essay you might make sure that you line up your most important points at the beginning and re-emphasise it at the end.

Neurobiological support for the difference between short-term and long-term memory

Research suggests that newly learnt information is stored in the hippocampus, a region of the brain. After strengthening the connections, the memory is slowly transferred to the neocortex, an area of the brain away from the hippocampus, where these memories are stored permanently. Brain injuries to the hippocampus area can leave long-term memories unaffected because they are stored in a separate area of the brain. However, the formation of new long-term memories is likely to be affected as information cannot yet be stored away from the hippocampus.

Are the short-term and long-term memory stores distinct?

The multi-store model argues that there is a direct, ordered route to long-term storage. Information that is attended to goes to short-term memory and short-term memory can then be transferred to the long-term store.

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Logie (1999) argued that short-term memory processing relies on long-term memory. If asked to remember the letters: TREEGRASSEARTH NATURE, you do not simply rely on short-term memory but immediately group them into words and words that all belong to semantic meanings which are stored in your long-term memory.

Ruchkin et al. (2003) studied brain activity in healthy participants and found that recalling real words causes greater activity in the brain than pseudowords; this suggests that semantic processing is involved in word recall.

More than one type of long-term memory

- The multi-store model presents an oversimplified picture of long-term memory.
- Research suggests multiple long-term memory stores rather than a single unitary store.
- Schacter et al. (2000) proposed four types of long-term memory:
 - Semantic memory (memory related to meaning and factual knowledge)
 - Episodic memory (memory related to past events)
 - Procedural memory (memory related to how to do actions)
 - Perceptual-representation system memory (memory related to improving on things you have seen before: primed)
- Spiers et al. (2001) in their meta-review of amnesic patients found that semantic memory was not complete, whereas the other two types were.

Stores are conceptually distinct

- All three stores differ in terms of duration and capacity and the processes within each store are distinct from one store to another.

Issues and debates: reductionism

Reductionism is the process of simplifying a complex idea down to its easier-to-understand components. Scientists in many disciplines use reductionist explanations because they offer a clear, simple explanation and make research easier to conduct. The multi-store model is reductionist because it breaks memory into different memory stores, but does not account for the multiple types of memory or the interconnections between the stores. Additionally, it pays little attention to the interconnections between the stores. Additionally, it does not account for the fact that memory is a continuous process and does not acknowledge how long-term memories can influence short-term memory.

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Case studies of brain-damaged patients

The case of HM (Henry Molaison)	The case of Clive Wearing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HM suffered from frequent epileptic fits and at age 27 he underwent surgery to stop them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clive Wearing (not a patient) had a rare viral infection called herpes simplex which was the result of a cold sore
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large sections of his hippocampus and amygdala were removed, curing his epilepsy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The virus attacked and destroyed his hippocampus, destroying his hippocampus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These areas are crucial for memory and HM suffered severe anterior grade amnesia (normal pre-surgery memory but unable to remember things that happened after the surgery) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clive also has severe memory impairment and frequently believes he is meeting people for the first time after being introduced to them
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short-term memory is normal but he is unable to transfer the information into long-term memory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> He was encouraged to recall his experiences, which he did for a short time and similar to HM, he was perfectly awake for the rest of his life and had previous knowledge of who he was
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> He is able to learn new motor skills but he has to be reminded that he has learnt them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Along with anterior grade amnesia, he also has incomplete memory of his past (retrograde amnesia)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HM also suffered moderate retrograde amnesia (forgetting memories before the surgery) with some difficulty remembering events just before the surgery and others up to 11 years before 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For example, he had no memory of the university he spent his childhood at
<p>✓ How they support the multi-store model...</p> <p>HM indicates that there is a clear separation between short-term and long-term memory as his memory of long-term events was mostly preserved in comparison to his short-term memories.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before his infection, he was a professional pianist in the musical field and he had a perfect pitch He could learn new information by repetition but each time he forgot it

✗ **How they challenge the multi-store model...**

While Clive lost substantial sections of his long-term memory, he still had many preserved skills such as the ability to play complex pieces of music on the piano. The multi-store model proposes that long-term memory is unitary, while Clive clearly indicates that he has lost some types of long-term memory but preserved others. This suggests that there are multiple forms of long-term memory. Most of HM's difficulties were to do with his inability to form new memories but HM also had problems recalling some of his older memories. This suggests that his long-term store was affected in both transferring information to the store and retrieving it.



Issues and debates: socially sensitive research

Research about and using brain-damaged patients can be considered socially sensitive. It is important to consider the influence of the research on the individual and their family. Severe memory impairment has an enormous effect on the patient's ability to function normally and the lives of those in their care.

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Issues and debates: ethics (and the cost-benefit analysis)

Henry Molaison's inability to create new long-term memories was, and still is, very well known. He was one of the few subjects of psychologists who wanted to study whether there were different memory stores. In his case, the memory stores being studied, but with his extremely short memory span, he never truly understood what he was part of. Did psychologists take advantage of HM?

Costs to HM: Due to his very short memory, HM could not give true informed consent to the research. He could only remember seconds of information and, during this time, it was not possible to understand what he was part of. HM did not appear to mind being researched and would follow the instructions of the researchers without protest. However, if he had had awareness that his life would be spent being researched, he would not have agreed to take part in the research. He is often cited as the most researched person in psychology. This suggests that he had very little privacy. It might have been better for HM to have had a life that was personally important to him.

Scientific benefits: The study of HM allowed researchers to learn about where memory is stored in the brain and showed strong evidence for there being separate memory stores and the need for them. The finding that HM could still learn procedural skills (Milner 1962), although he could not remember the skills, was a key finding in memory research as it pointed to separate short-term memory and that these memory systems are located in different areas across the brain. As HM is considered an important figure in the study of memory, it is worth noting that he was a very intelligent person and that psychologists have used numerous studies to develop their understanding of memory.

What are case studies?

A case study is an in-depth study of a particular individual or group of individuals. Case studies do not manipulate the independent variable but rather look at the effects of a particular event, such as the effects of an event. Case studies look at how the individual's behaviour is affected by the event or from what is regarded as normal or typical behaviour by the majority.

Case studies have proved especially useful in providing knowledge about different parts of the brain from studying cases of brain injuries. Although each brain is different, all brains have similar features and processes; this allows us to generalise from one brain to another.

Use of qualitative data in case studies

Qualitative data is of a descriptive nature and cannot be measured in the same way as quantitative data. It often looks at less defined issues, such as self-esteem, which are difficult to assess. Case studies are considered to be a qualitative approach, although it may incorporate quantitative research (numerical research).

Advantages: This type of data is used to gain understanding of a particular topic by looking at the individual's experience. Case studies emphasise the importance of the individual and, therefore, provide more qualitative information than statistical figures.

Disadvantages: Measurement of qualitative data is said to be subjective because it is based on the researcher's interpretation of the data. Researchers must analyse the data by looking for themes and construct a narrative from researcher to researcher.

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Evaluation of case studies in brain-damaged patients

Advantages	Disadvantages
<p>High level of detail: The amount of relevant information provided by a case study is much greater than provided by an experimental design. This can encourage a deeper level of understanding and uncover relationships that can lead to experimental research.</p> <p>→ Link to brain-damage case studies HM is considered one of the most researched subjects in psychology. Researchers have been able to learn an enormous amount of information about how his brain works and the involvement of the hippocampus in the memory.</p>	<p>Lack of generalisability: It is difficult to generalise from a single case study to the whole population from a single study involves unique circumstances of the individual being researched. When universal cognitive processes are studied from brain injuries are studied.</p> <p>→ Link to brain-damage case studies Both HM and Clive Wearing had brain surgery to remove parts of the hippocampus. Clive Wearing's hippocampus were destroyed due to a virus. It would not be wise to infer from these cases that healthy brain functions are the same.</p>
<p>Research naturally occurring events: Case studies allow researchers to understand events that occur naturally but would be unacceptable to create in experimental conditions. For example, studies of child abuse or deprivation would not be acceptable to create for research purposes.</p> <p>→ Link to brain-damage case studies It would not be acceptable to deliberately create the damaged memory systems of HM and Clive Wearing. Instead, researchers were able to benefit from these events without causing them.</p>	<p>Attrition: Case studies often involve studying the same individual over a long period. However, participants may drop out of the study which may not give the researcher the data they need on the extent of the change.</p> <p>→ Link to brain-damage case studies In research with brain-damaged individuals, the individual him/herself is less likely to participate in the study. However, if the individual withdraws the patient from the study, the researcher may lose the data.</p>
<p>Integrated: Rather than measuring on a specific test, case studies tend to use a variety of typically qualitative research methods. This provides a more holistic understanding of the topic.</p> <p>→ Link to brain-damage case studies HM was tested in many different ways over his lifetime. These included tests of memory span, of his intellectual abilities, and of his ability to acquire new procedural skills (e.g. mirror tracing). After his death, HM's brain was scanned using an MRI machine and dissected. All of this research was brought together to provide a holistic understanding of the function of the hippocampus.</p>	<p>Retrospective: Research using case studies often involves looking back at the change that the individual has experienced to find out how the individual has changed. This is problematic as it relies on self-reporting at what the individual was like before the change. This is problematic as it relies on self-reporting from other sources. This makes it difficult to know whether the individual was 'typical' before the change.</p> <p>→ Link to brain-damage case studies It is difficult to say whether HM was 'typical' before his surgery. Clive Wearing was not 'typical' before his surgery. It may be that their memory was different from typical memory.</p>
<p>Later research: Case studies can uncover possible relationships and this can encourage future experimental research that may be able to establish causation.</p> <p>→ Link to brain-damage case studies The finding that HM could create new procedural memories but not other types of long-term memory was a new finding in the study of memory. This led to much new research on motor learning and on where certain types of memory were located in the brain.</p>	<p>Ethical issues: In-depth studies involving brain-damaged individuals require careful care in ensuring the data is kept secure and that the individual's privacy must be apparent to the person conducting the study. The study can be stopped at any time. If the individual has experienced abuse or trauma, researchers do not inhibit the individual's ability to participate in the study.</p> <p>→ Link to brain-damage case studies It is difficult to know whether HM and Clive Wearing gave informed consent. It may be difficult for them to understand what is going on. Research involving brain-damaged individuals is often invasive and they are damaging the brain.</p>

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Issues and debates: nature-nurture debate

Cases of brain damage, such as HM, offer support for brain function being the result of biology. The nature side of the debate argues that our behaviour is the result of our genetics, biology. The case of HM, whose brain damage to his brain strongly suggests that the brain's function is determined by biology, supports the nature side. His brain led to irreversible deficits in his memory. This suggests that certain aspects of memory are determined by biology and that memory deficits cannot be influenced by life experiences.

In contrast, the other side of the debate, nurture, argues that brain function and memory are influenced by past lifetime experiences. By extension, the nurture side of the debate offers flexibility. Our experiences are changeable, whereas our genetics are not. Some studies of brain damage, such as those of stroke survivors, support the nurture debate. These studies found that there is significant adaption after brain injury. This suggests that the brain is malleable and that experiences can change and alter our memory.

As always, case studies are particular to the individual and need to be viewed as part of a complete picture. Currently, the stance is that both nature and nurture are involved.

Not all things are bad...

While we have presented some serious threats to the multi-store model, there are also strengths to the model:

- There is much strong evidence that has been discussed so far on the existence of different stores
- The model provides a reasonable account of the structure of memory, but the explanations of the processes that underlie these structural components are limited
- Later models of memory have used the foundations provided by the multi-store model

Issues and debates: comparing the multi-store model with working memory model

The multi-store model is an older model of memory and does not have the advantages of the working memory model made through later research. However, the model has provided a strong foundation for the working memory model. The distinctions between sensory, short-term and long-term memory are supported. A key strength of the multi-store model is that it offers a complete account of how our sensory inputs to our short-term and then our long-term memory.

The working memory model, in contrast, is an account only of short-term memory and does not account for the interaction of short-term memory with long-term memory.

The working memory model is considered an improvement over the multi-store model because:

- allows for active retrieval
- is a non-linear process
- can better explain brain-damaged patients
- is involved in higher cognitive tasks
- has a lesser emphasis on verbal rehearsal (strong emphasis on this in the multi-store model, less so in later versions of the model)

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Task 2.3

Using the information from this chapter, consider how the multi-store model could be regarded

Proposal in the multi-store model	Evidence that suggests that the model
<i>Example...</i> The multi-store model proposes that there is a single long-term memory store.	<i>Example...</i> However, Clive Wearing lost many of his long-term memories but he can still play the piano. This suggests that there is a separate memory store which was left undamaged and needs additional stores to account for this.

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Chapter 2 Activities

Check your understanding!

- Q1. How does HM support the multi-store model of memory? (3 marks)
- Q2. Describe a study into short-term memory encoding. (3 marks)
- Q3. Identify the independent variable (what is changed to produce an effect) and the dependent variable (how the change is measured) in Baddeley's (1966b) study on encoding. (3 marks)
- Q4. Simon loves to watch and play tennis, while Rob only has a passing interest. Rob went to last year's Wimbledon championships. Explain, with reference to memory stores, why it is easier for Simon to recall the match scores than it is for Rob. (3 marks)
- Q5. Briefly discuss one ethical issue that may need to be considered when conducting research on memory in patients. (3 marks)
- Q6. Compare memory capacity across different stores of the multi-store model. (3 marks)

Exam-style questions

- Q1. Katie is trying to learn her new mobile number. However, she is having difficulty remembering all the digits.
- Explain, using knowledge of short-term memory capacity, why Katie is having difficulty remembering her mobile number. (3 marks)
- Q2. Storage capacity is how much information a memory store can hold at any one time.
- Describe the storage capacity within the multi-store model. (3 marks)
- Q3. Evaluate the use of brain-damaged patients in psychological research. Refer to Henry Molaison's (HM's) case in your answer. (8 marks)

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Chapter 3: Explanation of Long-term

Overview

In this chapter we will move away from the idea that long-term memory is a unified concept and take an in-depth look at the different types of long-term memory. We will examine the characteristics of episodic, semantic and procedural memory and the evidence for the existence of three types.

Learning outcomes

After studying this chapter you should be able to:

- ☐ Describe the differences between episodic, semantic and procedural memory
- ☐ Describe and evaluate research supporting the existence of different types of long-term memory

Key Terms

Autobiographical memory	Another term for episodic memory; autobiographical memory is the memory of personal events in our own life
Declarative memory	Memory that requires conscious thought; it encompasses semantic and episodic memories; for example, remembering what you did last Tuesday back in time
Episodic memory	Our memory of past events, usually including a time and place; for example, what happened on last year's birthday
Explicit memory	Another term for declarative memory; memory that requires conscious thought
Implicit memory	Memory that can be formed automatically; it encompasses procedural and semantic memory; you do not need to consciously think how to walk
Long-term memory	Our memory for past events (which is longer than our short-term memory)
Procedural memory	Our memory of how to do actions; for example, how to ride a bicycle
Semantic memory	Our memory concerned with the meaning of things and concepts; for example, what a wrench is for



Scene-Setting Questions

- Clive Wearing is a brain-damaged patient who has severe problems with memory and only some of his long-term memories. What does this tell us about the way memory is organised?
- Think of the word 'memory'; can you remember when or how you first learned it? What does this tell you about the way memory is organised?
- What behaviours would you say are automatic?

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Tulving (1972)

Tulving (1972) was the first to formally distinguish between two different types of memories and semantic memories. Episodic memories are our memories of past birthdays, or learning to drive, whereas, semantic memories hold our knowledge of abstract concepts mean; for example, knowing that Bristol is in the UK or what type of

Episodic memory

Episodic memory (also known as autobiographical memory) is our memory of past events. One of the defining features of episodic memories is that a spatio-temporal context is attached to them and we recall the time and place the event happened. For example, 'What happened to your knee?' might be responded to with 'I slipped on the wet kitchen floor yesterday'. Tulving likened our recall of episodic memories to being able to time travel and experience events again.

Researching episodic memories

It is challenging to investigate episodic memories because researchers need to know exactly what happened during the event to validate whether the episodic memory is accurate.

Researchers test episodic memories by testing their recognition or by testing their recall.

Testing recognition

Two types: familiarity (recognising that you know something but not knowing any details) (recognising because you have retrieved contextual information).

The remember-know tasks involve participants indicating whether they are familiar with an event / previous learning task. Recollection is more difficult than familiarity.

Do they rely on different processes? Dunn (2008) conducted a meta-analysis of 3 studies and found that they relied on the same processes, and differences were due to memory

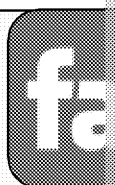
Testing recall

Generally, recall is more difficult than recognition. We have to work harder to recall

Staresina and Davachi (2006) tested free recall and recognition and found that free recall activation in the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex and in the parietal cortex but recognition areas. This suggests that free recall involves more processes than recognition.

A modern age

The current obsession with chronicling our everyday lives via social media sites such as Facebook will prove useful in the future for researchers interested in examining our episodic memories. While previously it would be difficult to check the correctness of an episodic memory, the masses of information stored on Facebook will make this



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Autobiographical memories

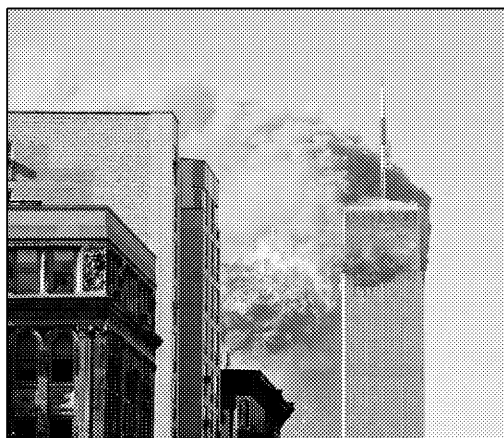
Autobiographical memories are sometimes considered separate from episodic memory but are often considered a subtype. Autobiographical memories concern only personal events, but they can also encompass events that might not affect you seriously; for example, a serious

Flashbulb memories

Flashbulb memories are a special type of episodic memory which are like vivid 'snapshots' of events. With these memories, forgetting is less likely and a large number of details are often recalled. For example, you may have a strong memory of where you were and what you were doing when you found out that Michael Jackson died or about the 9/11 attacks. One reason why these memories might persist is that these memories are often retold; however, these recollections may not always be accurate.

Consider!

Have a think about your own flashbulb memories. They might be events of personal importance, such as a special birthday or a family death, or world events such as natural disasters or the election of President Obama.



9/11 is one area that has been extensively studied in terms of flashbulb memories. Research has shown Americans recall details much like a photograph. British people recall a lower level of detail for events closer to home such as the death of Princess Diana or the 7/7 terrorist attack in London.

Why do you think we remember these events so clearly?
Did we pay more attention at the time?
Did we know it was going to be a significant event?
Has the story or event been retold many times?
Do strong emotions cause us to remember?

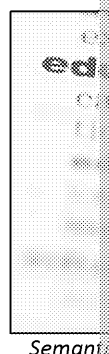
Individual differences: autobiographical memories

A person's autobiographical experiences are unique to that individual. Two people can witness the same event but have different autobiographical memories. Factors such as age, culture, and personality influence how we experience and recall memories.

Semantic memory

Semantic memory is to do with what things mean. It includes the definitions of words, our understanding of concepts and our generic factual knowledge.

Semantic memories are essential for our ability to use and remember language, and without them words would be meaningless. Not only do we use them to remember the meanings of words, but also the rules for how those meanings interact and change (for example, plurals generally have the rule 'add s' but there are also exceptions to this rule), which are all stored in semantic memory.



Semantic memory

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Separate from spatio-temporal context

Unlike with episodic memories, we cannot recall when and where we acquired the circumstances around learning the word 'superficial' were, it is unlikely that you will recall the information. Thus, while you know what the word 'superficial' means, it can be used out of context.

Most of the time it is useful for semantic memories and episodic memories to be separate. If you could recall the time and place for every word and fact you had ever learnt, it would be overwhelming and may affect our ability to function.

Stored in different areas of the brain

Semantic memories and episodic memories are initially connected and rely on the hippocampus. As the episodic parts of the memory are stripped away from the semantic memories, they become consolidated in the neocortex, a structure away from the hippocampus.

As such, damage to the hippocampus should leave our factual knowledge intact but damage our abilities to learn new information.

Schema

Schemata (plural of schema) are mental structures that help us understand and organise conceptual information. For example, a schema for 'dog' might include information that it is a living thing, that it has four legs, that it barks and that it might bite you. As new information about dogs is encountered it is integrated into the existing schema.

Task

Make a list of things you associate with the concept 'dog' then write a paragraph using the word and see if someone else can guess what it is: our schemata are often similar.

Bransford and Johnson (1972) illustrated the effect of schemata on our understanding

They gave participants this passage to read:

'The procedure is actually quite simple. First you arrange things into different groups. Of course, one pile may be sufficient depending on how much there is to do. If you have too many groups you are up to a lack of facilities that is the next step, otherwise you are pretty well set. It is in particular endeavour. That is, it is better to do too few things at once than too many. One must not seem important, but complications from doing too many can easily arise. A moderate amount of planning is essential. The manipulation of the appropriate mechanisms should be self-explanatory, and first the whole procedure will seem complicated. Soon, however, it will become just a little difficult to foresee any end to the necessity for this task in the immediate future, but one must not be discouraged by this. One must persevere and the task will be accomplished. By following these instructions you will surely be able to master the procedure. It is absolutely essential that you follow the directions to the letter. If you do not, you will surely be disappointed.'

Afterwards they asked participants how easy it was to understand. Participants gave low ratings of understanding. However, if told that the passage was about doing the laundry, participants gave high ratings of understanding.

How is semantic memory organised in the brain?

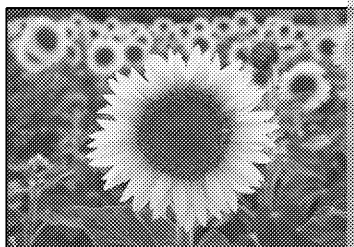
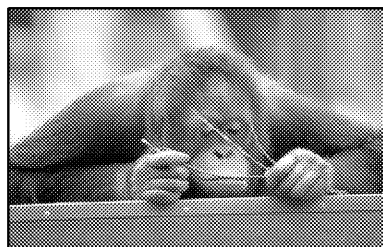
We can use research on language disorders of semantic memory to help us understand how it is organised. For example, Warrington and Shallice (1984) looked at four patients who had suffered from semantic encephalitis, which affects the brain, and found that these patients were much worse at recognising living things as opposed to nonliving things. For example, JBR was able to recognise 24 out of 48 nonliving things but only two out of 48 living things.

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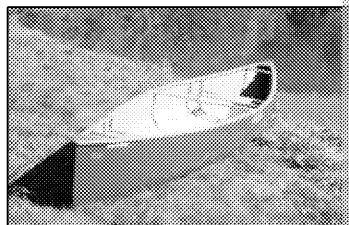


This suggests that our memory is organised differently for animate and inanimate objects, stored in different areas.

Lose these?



But keep these?



What evidence is there for the dissociation?

Tulving (1972) argued that episodic and semantic memories were two separate types. Consider whether this argument holds water.

Evidence from brain-damaged patients

When someone suffers brain damage, it can affect their memory. They may lose the ability to learn new memories. This, along with the nature of the damage, can show how memory is stored.

The case of KC

KC was in a motorbike accident which left him with an inability to create new memories (anterograde amnesia) and also problems in recalling memories before the accident (retrograde amnesia). Interestingly, his semantic memories were intact but his ability to recall and form episodic memories was severely affected. This supports the dissociation between episodic and semantic memories because only episodic memories were affected, which suggests that semantic and episodic memories are stored in different areas of the brain.



KC is now

The case of Clive Wearing

Clive Wearing contracted herpes viral encephalitis which attacked his central nervous system. He is unable to form new memories (anterograde amnesia). He remembers some episodic memories from before the virus, such as recall the names of the children from his first marriage. Prior to his brain damage, he can still recall how to play the piano. This suggests a third type of memory which controls actions. This type of memory was not damaged and, therefore, must be in a different area of the brain. Tulving (1985) later described this as procedural memory.

Individual differences: Brain-damaged patients often have unique patterns of damage and respond differently to treatment. While these patients can provide important insights into the different types of memory, it is important to be cautious about applying these findings to the healthy population.

A review of brain-damage-induced amnesia Maguire and Burgess (2001) reviewed cases of amnesia which the patient had damage to a bundle of nerve fibres which carry information between the hippocampus and the rest of the brain. They found that there was episodic memory impairment in the cases but there were few problems with semantic memory. This suggests that the location of episodic and semantic memories must be different.

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Neuroimaging evidence

A review by Wheeler et al. (1997) of studies that used PET scans found that in 25 out of 26 studies the right prefrontal cortex showed greater activation during episodic memory retrieval than during semantic memory retrieval. They also found that in 18 out of 20 studies, the left prefrontal cortex was more active during episodic encoding and semantic encoding. This suggests that the prefrontal cortex is more involved in episodic memory than semantic memory, suggesting separate systems.

A more recent study by Burianova et al. (2010) argues that autobiographical, episodic and semantic memories are retrieved by the same neural network rather than separate memory networks. They conducted an fMRI study which used the same photographs but asked participants questions that involved recalling autobiographical, episodic or semantic information.

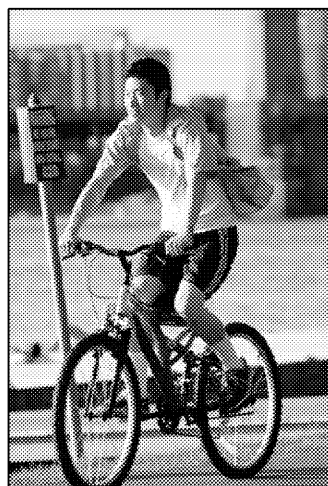
For example, a photograph of a tent was shown and the questions were:

- **Autobiographical:** Think of the last time you went camping.
- **Episodic:** In the picture which you have just seen, what is the colour of the tent?
- **Semantic:** Are there more than 100 camping grounds in Algonquin Park? (this research was being conducted)

They found that a large network of brain regions was activated in all three types of memory. The left hippocampus, right caudate nucleus and left lingual gyrus in all of the common types of memory are all part of a common network with much overlap between them. This is in contrast to other research which argues for a non-unitary system (i.e. separated into different systems).

Procedural memory

Procedural memory is separate from episodic and semantic long-term memories. It is the memory of how we perform actions; for example, how we ride a bike or use cutlery.



Brain injuries

Clive Wearing showed that he still retained his ability to play the piano, suggesting that his procedural memories were left intact. In addition, another brain injury patient, HM, was able to form new procedural memories and short-term memories, but other types of long-term memory could not be formed. This suggests that the procedural part of his memory was preserved and existed independently of the other parts. He was able to learn and improve on mirror drawing but had no memory of having ever done it before.

Mirror drawing

This task is often used to test procedural memories. It involves tracing a shape while only looking at a mirror. Repeated practice improves the time it takes to complete the task.



PET scans
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Neurological basis for procedural memory

Unlike other types of memories which are dependent on the hippocampal structure, procedural memories are encoded and stored in other areas of the brain. The involvement of the motor cortex and other areas of the brain such as the cerebellum and the basal ganglia are also involved.

How we learn new skills

Fitts (1954) proposed a three-stage model for learning new skills:

1. **Cognitive phase:** The skill is broken up into different parts and knowledge is built upon; attention is required at every part of the skill
2. **Associative phase:** Practising the actions involved until the response of the skill changes (improves)
3. **Autonomous phase:** This involves perfecting the skill until it becomes autonomous and the person does not have to consciously think about doing each part of the skill

Tadlock (2005) argued that learning new skills was a matter of analysing your responses and improving them. Repeating this cycle over many attempts leads to perfecting a skill.

Divided attention

How easy is it to multitask? Can we really do two things at once?

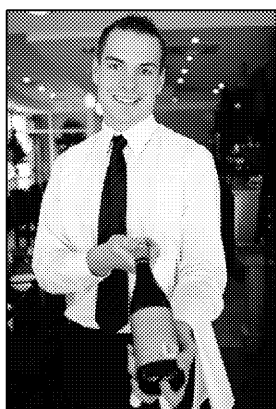
Spelke et al. (1976) examined the effect of practice in a dual-task experiment. Two students were asked to read and comprehend short stories while noting down words that they heard. Initially, they found it difficult and their comprehension of the stories suffered. However, after six weeks of training for five hours a week, they could comprehend the stories as well as when they read them alone. This suggests that when an activity becomes autonomous, we are able to perform multiple tasks at once.

However, Strayer and Johnston (2001) conducted a simulated driving study that compared braking distance when driving alone to driving while using a hand-held or hands-free mobile phone. They found that mobile phone usage of both forms led to longer braking times, which suggests that even autonomous behaviours are still affected by dual tasks.

Real-life applications

While research suggests that many procedural skills become perfect with practice, in real life people who are at their peak of performance may fail due to pressure (termed 'choking').

For example, David Bedford was a world-record-holding runner, but in the 1972 Munich Olympics the pressure was too much and he only managed a disappointing 12th place.



The effects of alcohol

While alcohol can impair the encoding of our episodic memory, blackout memory is a failure to encode memories due to alcohol. Procedural memories are largely unaffected. Since procedural memories are automatic, they are unimpaired by the problems in conscious memory that results in.

Even if you are intoxicated, you can still remember how to perform a skill without consciously thinking about it, but your reflexes may be impaired.

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Further evaluation points

There are more than three types...

Along with procedural memory, which does not require conscious recall, other types of memory are also unconscious. Priming involves 'preparing' a person for a stimulus which quickens or improves the response.

Exposure to a semantically related word primes the response.

For example, if exposed to the word 'fruit' it speeds up the recognition of the word 'apple' but not 'hat'.

Another example is that if you read a list of words including 'hall' and were later given a word '___ I' to fill in, you would be more likely to use the word 'hall' when numerous options exist (e.g. call, ball, cull, dull, fall, tell, poll, roll, to name a few!).

This shows that we are making unconscious links between our memories. Unconscious types of memory, including procedural memory, are grouped under the heading 'implicit memory'.

Depth of processing

Models tend to argue that the amount of rehearsal determines whether a memory enters the long-term memory store. However, Craik and Lockhart (1972) argue that it is not how much rehearsal but how deeply we process the information that determines whether it enters the long-term memory store.

Shallow processing might involve focusing on the physical characteristics, whereas a deeper level of processing might involve examining the semantic meaning.

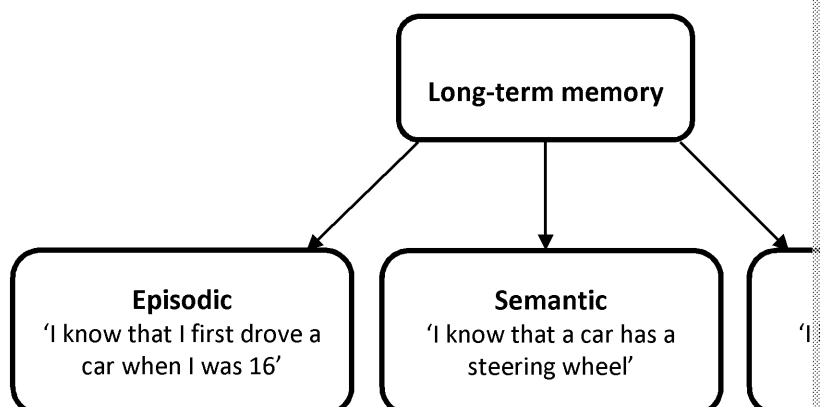
In the multi-store model this is akin to the differences between maintenance rehearsal and elaborative rehearsal. Maintenance rehearsal does not make it likely that the memory will be engrained in our long-term memory as it involves a shallow level of processing, but elaborative processing involves a deeper level.

Just one store?

Howard and Kahana's (2002) Temporal Context Model (TCM) argues that rather than there being multiple stores, there is a single store that is context-dependent. Associations exist between the temporal contexts which act as cues for recall. They explain that the recency effect is the result of temporal context. If a person has just recalled one word, they are likely to recall next the word that has the most closely associated temporal context, which is usually the word next to it.

However, more recent revisions to the model (Sederberg, Howard and Kahana, 2008) suggest the possibility of a short-term component within the TCM.

Summary of Types of Long-term Memory



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Chapter 3 Activities

Task 3.1

Illustrate that you know the difference between the three different types of memory using the same example but other types of memory:

Type of long-term memory	Example
Episodic	
Semantic	
Procedural	<i>'I know how to ride a bike'</i>

Type of long-term memory	Example
Episodic	
Semantic	<i>'I know that a piano has 88 keys'</i>
Procedural	

Type of long-term memory	Example
Episodic	<i>'I know that I first tied my shoes when I was five years old'</i>
Semantic	
Procedural	

Check your understanding!

- Q1. Briefly outline the difference between declarative and procedural memory. (3 marks)
- Q2. Briefly define the three different types of long-term memory. (3 marks)
- Q3. According to Fitts (1954), how do we learn to ride a bike? (3 marks)
- Q4. Describe what flashbulb memories are, and give examples. (3 marks)
- Q5. Describe what schemata are, and give examples. (3 marks)
- Q6. Discuss whether we can really do two things at once. (4 marks)

Exam-style questions

- Q1. Tulving (1972) made the important distinction between episodic and semantic memory. Describe semantic memory. (3 marks)
- Q2. David was in a car accident and suffered brain damage. David is able to remember factual information. He can remember factual information such as the location of his home on a map. He can also remember what everyday household objects are, such as a toaster. He can remember the time when he badly burnt his hand with boiling water. He can remember details from many years before his accident, but he cannot remember the details of his divorce which occurred two years before his injury. David is unable to learn new facts or remember his recent experiences. Discuss the distinction between episodic and semantic memories. (8 marks)

Discuss the episodic-semantic distinction in terms of David's ability to learn new facts or remember his recent experiences. (8 marks)

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Chapter 4: Reconstructive Memory

Overview

In this chapter we will learn about Bartlett's (1932) theory of reconstructive memory, including schema theory. We will look at his famous study, The War of the Ghosts, and evaluate the study. We will consider evidence for the reconstructive memory theory as a whole and the theory's strengths and weaknesses.

Learning outcomes

After studying this chapter you should be able to:

- ☐ Describe and evaluate Bartlett's experiment
- ☐ Describe and evaluate evidence for reconstructive memory
- ☐ Describe and evaluate evidence for schema theory
- ☐ Describe and evaluate a contemporary study

Key Terms

Assimilation	Trying to fit new information into our previously held expectations
Blood-oxygen-level-dependent (BOLD) response	A technique used in fMRI that shows activity in the brain by measuring the level of oxygenated and deoxygenated haemoglobin
Control group	A group of participants who are not exposed to the experimental independent variable and who are compared with the experimental group
Ecological validity	The extent to which the findings can be generalised to real life and everyday behaviour
Encoding	How information changes to be stored in memory
Functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI)	A neuroimaging method which examines brain activity and associated changes
Inter-rater reliability	A method of establishing reliability which compares how two different raters score the same data
Levelling	Simplifying a story by reducing the number of details
Objective	Free from errors caused by subjective interpretation
Rationalisation	Explaining confusing elements of a story so that they can be understood
Reconstructive memory	A theory by Bartlett (1932) which argued that memory is not reproduced exactly as it was experienced
Repeated reproduction	When the same information is recalled several times in a row
Retrieval	Accessing the stored memory
Schema (schemata)	Schemata are our mental representations of objects and events, and they help us to understand what words and concepts mean, and what to expect
Serial reproduction	One person learns and recalls information, their version is then passed on to another person who recalls it, and so on
Sharpening	Overemphasising the importance of certain details in a story



Scene-Setting Questions

- Have you ever questioned the accuracy of your memory?
- Do you think your memory is more accurate for recent events or events from the past?
- For what situations is it important for memory to be accurate?

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Task 4.1.

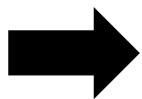
Try this task with the person next to you. Read the list of words to the person. After you have finished reading, they should write down all the words they can remember.

Fight
Mean

Mad
Temper

Fury
Annoy

Rage
Hatred



Discuss with your partner: How many words did you remember? How many words did your partner remember? Were any words new?

Bartlett and Reconstructive Memory**What is reconstructive memory?**

Reconstructive memory is a theory proposed by Bartlett (1932), who argued that memory is reconstructed rather than simply reproduced. Memory is not like the video fiction that we see on television; it is not a perfect record of exactly what happens. Instead, every time we try to recall a memory, it is reconstructed from the information that is available.

Before Bartlett's theory and the research conducted on the topic, it was thought that memory was a perfect record of what happened and it was often used as the primary evidence in criminal court cases. Now, it is known that memory can be easily distorted and Bartlett believed that the reconstructive process could lead to errors in memory.

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Bartlett (1932) The War of the Ghosts

Bartlett conducted a famous study called The War of the Ghosts which he used to show how memory can become distorted over time.

Key Study: Bartlett (1932) The War of the Ghosts	
Aim	To investigate the reconstructive nature of memory and whether schemas (schemata) will affect memory.
Method	<p>Bartlett investigated this in two ways:</p> <p>Repeated reproduction: Participants heard a story called The War of the Ghosts, a Native American story that was unfamiliar to them. The story was told twice and then the participants were asked to recall it after 15 minutes. Recall was then tested at various intervals, with participants at the campus, and this varied from days to months.</p> <p>Serial reproduction: Serial reproduction is similar to the game Chinese Whispers. The first person heard the story of The War of the Ghosts and then recalled it after a set interval. This new version was then passed on to a second person, who recalled it, and this was read to the third person, and so on.</p>
Findings	<p>Repeated reproduction: Bartlett found that participants changed the story during recall. The number of distortions increased with further recalls. Participants tried to make sense of it from the cultural perspective they had.</p> <p>Bartlett found that a number of different kinds of memory errors occurred in the repeated reproductions of the story. The error types were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levelling: Participants remembered fewer details about the story as they repeated it. They simplified the story each time it was retold. • Sharpening: Participants increased the importance of some details, making them overemphasised and elaborated on certain details. • Distortion: Participants also changed the story during recall, adding details that were not in the original story. • Assimilation: Participants tried to change the story to fit their own cultural beliefs. Unfamiliar elements of the story were changed so they made more sense to the participants. Parts of the story that could not be changed were cut from participants' memories. • Rationalisation: Participants provided explanations for the story so that they made more sense. They added extra details to make the story more similar to an English story. <p>Serial reproduction: The same errors were found in serial production but the changes were more pronounced in repeated recall. Participants still had the same reconstructive process, so if the first person was very inaccurate, then the rest would also be.</p>
Conclusions	<p>Memories are not exact reproductions of the event but are reconstructed. Memory is an active process in which information is compared to existing schemas to fit our understanding of the world.</p> <p>Memory gets less accurate over time due to the multiple reconstructions.</p> <p>The effects shown in the serial reproduction can explain how information is passed through generations and from culture to culture.</p>

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Below is the actual story that participants had to recall:

The War of the Ghosts

One night, two young men from Egulac went down to the river to hunt seals and while they were there it became foggy and calm. Then they heard war-cries, and they thought: 'Maybe this is a war-party'. They escaped to the shore, and hid behind a log. Now, canoes came up, and they heard the noise of paddles, and saw one canoe coming up to them. There were five men in the canoe, and they said:

'What do you think? We wish to take you along. We are going up the river to make war on the people.'

One of the young men said, 'I have no arrows.'

'Arrows are in the canoe,' they said.

'I will not go along. I might be killed. My relatives do not know where I have gone. But you,' he said, turning to the other, 'may go with them.'

So one of the young men went, but the other returned home.

And the warriors went on up the river to a town on the other side of Kalama. There and they began to fight, and many were killed. But presently the young man heard let us go home: that Indian has been hit.' Now he thought: 'Oh, they are ghosts.' He did not feel sick, but they said he had been shot.

So the canoes went back to Egulac and the young man went ashore to his house and made a fire. And he told everybody and said: 'Behold I accompanied the ghosts, and we went to fight. Many of our fellows were killed, and many of those who attacked us were killed. They said I was hit, and I did not feel sick.'

He told it all, and then he became quiet. When the sun rose he fell down. Sometimes His face became contorted. The people jumped up and cried.

He was dead.

Task 4.2

Bartlett found that the story became a much more straightforward narrative in recalls. Supernatural elements were dropped, the prose was more consistent narrative, and the story became about a fight and a death.

Imagine you are a participant and write down the story you might recall.

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Issues and debates: culture

Our ability to remember is universal and present in every culture. However, differences seem to be determined by the cultural and social demands of the context.

Bartlett believed that remembering was related to culture and described the ability to recall characteristics about specific cattle in their herd. In the Swazi culture, owning cattle is central to their livelihood; therefore, it makes sense that they would develop memory skills for their cattle.



Misty and Rogoff (1994) argued that remembering is important for Swazi people because it is required for important cultural goals. They have an extraordinary memory of the Itamul elders who can recall lines of descent and the history of the tribe. These skills developed so that they could remember the names of their cattle. Misty and Rogoff (1994) used this example to argue that memory is culturally important goals.

Evaluating Bartlett's The War of the Ghosts study

Strength: Bartlett's theory and findings generated new research

Bartlett's ideas were new to memory research at the time. Prior to this, there was a focus on simple reproductions. Bartlett argued that this system would not be useful in real life as the world was every changing and, therefore, we would rarely need to exactly reproduce something. Instead, we would reconstruct the memory in accordance with the information at the time. Later research supported viewing memory in this way. A large number of studies supported the idea that memory is a reconstruction of the event.

Issues and debates: how psychological understanding has developed over time

Prior to Bartlett, psychology was focused on spatial explanations for memory error. Psychologists argued that we forget things because we do not have the storage capacity to hold all of the available information. Processes such as attention explained why some pieces of information got stored and others forgotten.

However, Bartlett proposed that errors of memory were the result of temporal factors. That is, over time things become less accurate and we are more prone to memory errors. This was a radical shift in how memory was considered and studied, and generated new research which tested this theory.



Now, once again, the focus on temporal dynamics has been dropped by cognitive psychology. The current approach to studying memory from a storage point of view. The future of memory and schema theory is an active process which encompasses storage and temporal factors, along with viewing memory as an active process.

Strength: The War of the Ghosts study was one of the first to investigate more realistic memory

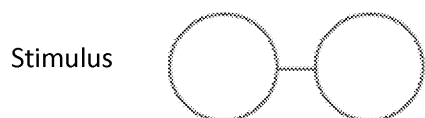
Ebbinghaus's research using nonsense syllables was seen as the gold standard of memory research. Highly scientific and controlled, Ebbinghaus's experiments illustrated a more systematic approach to studying memory. However, a core weakness of Ebbinghaus's work was that it was difficult to apply to real life. Our recall of nonsense syllables, such as WSP, tells us little about how we recall real-life events. Bartlett disliked the methodical approach of Ebbinghaus and wanted to develop a more realistic approach. He asked participants to recall a story, which is more like real-life recall than nonsense syllables.

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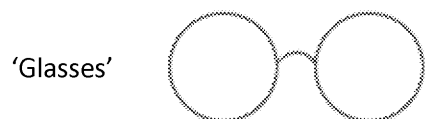


Strength: other research shows similar findings

Carmichael, Hogan and Walter (1932) presented participants with a series of figure objects. Before the figure was shown, the experimenter said 'the next figure resembled' and was from either List 1 or List 2. A control group was not told what the figure resembled. They were asked to draw, from memory, the figures they had seen. The experimenter compared their drawings to the stimulus figures. The participants' drawings in the List 1 group were different from the stimulus; their drawings resembled the label they had been given.



Here participants were given an object that was joined by a line. The participants' drawings resembled glasses or that



The researchers found that the last group produced in recall to match the last stimulus.



The researchers argued that memory was reconstructed.

Bransford and Franks (1971) were interested in memory abstraction, which is a concept that captures the meaning but does not store the precise wording.

Task: In the acquisition phase, participants listened to 24 sentences and after each sentence they were asked a simple question about the sentence. After a five-minute delay, they were given a test phase, they had to make a judgement as to whether the sentences had appeared or not. If they had not heard the sentence before ("NEW"). The participants also gave a confidence rating as to how likely they were that they were correct.

In the first list, there were sentences with one, two, or three facts.

One fact: The jelly was sweet.

Two facts: The sweet jelly was on the table.

Three facts: The ants ate the sweet jelly on the table.

For the second test list, participants heard sentences with one to four facts. Most of the sentences had been presented to the participants before. Sentences with four facts had not been in the first list.

Four facts: The ants in the kitchen ate the sweet jelly that was on the table.

Findings: Sentences with a higher number of facts were more likely to be judged as new. Participants were more confident about their judgement. Participants had only seen the simpler sentences and they believed that they had seen the four-fact sentences. Bransford and Franks argued that the human mind tries to make sense of the disconnected statements by processing them into a coherent whole. The four-fact sentences were a close match to the way they had been processed.

Conclusions: Bransford and Franks (1971) found that during encoding we integrate information in a way that makes sense of the information and, therefore, we may not recall the information exactly as it happens. The information is not completely accurate but based on the construction process during encoding.

Weakness: Bartlett's findings may have been the result of the instructions he gave. Bartlett did not record the exact instructions that he gave to participants, which makes it difficult to replicate his study precisely. In some instances, he would run into his participants and ask them to recall the story on the spot, which suggests that his instructions were not consistent from participant to participant.

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Later researchers Gauld and Stephenson (1967) used the same story as Bartlett but gave instructions that emphasised the importance of accuracy in their recalls. This change reduced nearly half of the errors that Bartlett found, which suggests that the instructions Bartlett gave encouraged guessing.

Weakness: Bartlett did not test participants at the same time intervals, which makes it difficult to compare participants

Following the initial recall after 15 minutes, participants recalled the story at various intervals depending on when they were asked to recall. This lack of testing participants at specific time intervals makes it difficult to compare participants. For example, if there is just a single participant for a specific time interval, how do we know that this participant is representative of all people?

Weakness: Bartlett did not have a consistent system for coding errors

Bartlett's findings were recorded as a series of anecdotes rather than using descriptive statistics or other analyses of the results. Bartlett seemed to delight in the fact that the book contained no statistics. This sharply contrasted with Ebbinghaus's earlier work on memory, which was highly scientific. In Bartlett's study, when a participant made an error in their recall, it was coded into different types of error; however there was no systematic method for coding these errors.

Weakness: Bartlett's study has limited generalisability to everyday memory

Bartlett chose to use unfamiliar material because he was interested on how schematic material is processed. However, one weakness is that his findings may not be generalisable to everyday memory.

Some researchers have praised Bartlett because he stepped away from the trend of using nonsense syllables or lists of words to investigate recall. However, critics have argued that the material was different from what his English participants were used to that the research is not representative of everyday memory.

Issues and debates: psychology vs. science

Good quality psychological research is that the research is published in a scientific journal articles. One issue with this article is that the research method they used in the study makes it difficult for researchers to replicate the work. This helps psychology to be a science.

Issues and debates: psychology vs. science

Researcher's findings are important for coding errors. It is important for researchers to have a consistent system for coding errors. The reliability of the information is important for the validity of the research. The reliability of the information is important for the validity of the research.



EXAM TIP: You could use this to critique Bartlett's study. Here's how you could use it.

Point: The War of the Ghosts story has poor ecological validity because of how different it is from everyday memory.

Evidence: For example, the prose in The War of the Ghosts story was very unusual and difficult for participants to understand the connections between different parts of the story.

Elaboration: Many of the distortions in the participants' recall were to change the story to fit their own experiences. In real life, participants would not need to distort their memories to fit their own experiences. Everyday memories may not be as prone to the memory errors Bartlett identified.

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Schema

Bartlett (1932) thought that distortions mainly occurred due to the effects of schemata on the reconstructive process. 'Schemata' was the word that Bartlett used to describe our existing knowledge. He argued that we use our existing knowledge to help us interpret and make sense of new information. This active interpretation process plays a role in our reconstructions as we try to fit new information into our existing knowledge. When our memories are incomplete, our schemata help us 'fill in the gaps' with knowledge about what could have happened in that situation.

In The War of the Ghosts study, some participants:

- altered the story so that there was a 'good guy' and a 'bad guy'
- viewed the story from the perspective of a fairy tale
- added a moral to the story
- changed elements that were strange to the participants, e.g. 'hunting seals'
- removed supernatural elements from the story
- simplified the story to be about a fight and a death

Bartlett argued that these changes were the result of schemata influencing the reconstruction. Participants tried to make sense of the story using their existing schemata, and, due to the large number of elements that were dropped or changed confusing elements; this made the story more consistent with their existing schemata.

People are more likely to ignore information that conflicts their existing schemata. They will often change the information to fit their schemata to account for the new information.

LINK TO CHAPTER 3

Definitions of schema (plural schemata)

You have previously come across schemata in Chapter 2 when we looked at semantic memories.

Bartlett was one of the first to use the word in psychology. He disliked the term because of the vague way researchers used it in the past. Bartlett used 'schema' to mean an active part of our knowledge of past experiences. All of our prior knowledge comes to bear on our understanding of the world, and this understanding influences our response to new experiences.

Later researchers developed on our understanding of schemas with the inclusion of 'scripts', which are schemata for specific events. Some researchers do not necessarily use the word 'schema' as Bartlett.

You could use this as a criticism, as researchers use different words for different ways and yet their work is compared to the same construct.

Task 4.3

Schemata contain our knowledge and expectations about particular events. What is stored in your restaurant schema?

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Schemata and the brain (Mahon et al., 2009)

The idea of schemata is a theory that psychologists have created to explain their observations and findings. But do schemata have a biological basis?

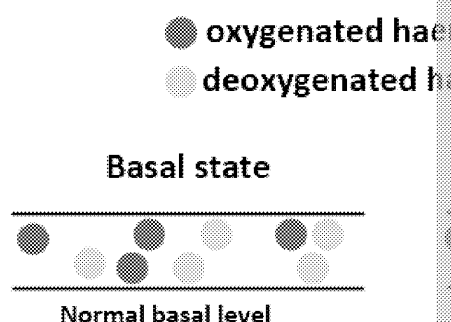
Mahon et al. (2009) researched which areas of the brain were activated for different types of objects (animals, tools and non-manipulable objects). If different areas of the brain were activated for different types of object, this would suggest that they were organised conceptually in the brain. The researchers were also interested as to whether blind and sighted people would show different activation patterns because if they did, this would suggest that organisation was based on experience. However, if they were the same, then this would suggest that organisation was based on something such as whether the object was inanimate.

Issues and debates

This study suggests that the brain has evolved to organise conceptual information that reconstructs our biology, evolution. On the other hand, the brain is a direct response to experiences, which are influenced by nurture.

New technology allows new insights:

Mahon et al. used functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to measure the neuronal activity of their participants. When an area of the brain is more active, there is an increased demand for oxygen, and higher blood oxygenation shows up differently on the scans. This imaging technique is known as blood-oxygenation-level-dependent (BOLD) imaging. Mahon et al. wanted to see if there would be different BOLD responses for the different types of object.



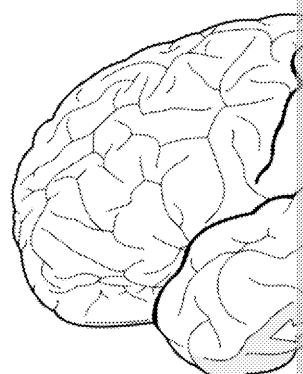
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Issues and debates: psychology as a science

Our understanding of the brain is increasing in proportion to the advances in technology. There are new ways to research the brain. One of the advantages of neuroimaging techniques is that they are objective. Neuronal activity patterns are not subject to the same kinds of error as subjective responses. Objective research is not influenced by factors such as the researcher's beliefs. Objectivity is a key feature of science. Despite the results being objective in neuroimaging, the researcher's interpretation of the results may not be objective.

What did participants do? Seven normally sighted and three congenitally blind participants took part in an fMRI study. The participants listened to groups of six words, all from the same category (animal / tool / non-manipulable object). Participants were told to think about the size of the first item, and then to compare the size of the other items to this first item. If participants judged all the sizes to be the same, they pushed a button with their right hand; if one or more of the objects were of a different size, then they pushed a button with their left hand.

What were the study's findings? Both sighted and blind participants showed higher BOLD responses in **medial** regions of the ventral stream for tools and non-manipulable objects compared to living things (e.g. animals).



Ventral stream

The ventral stream is known as the 'what' pathway. The term 'medial' refers to the middle of the brain.

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Both sighted and blind participants showed higher BOLD responses in **lateral** regions for living things compared to tools and non-manipulable objects.

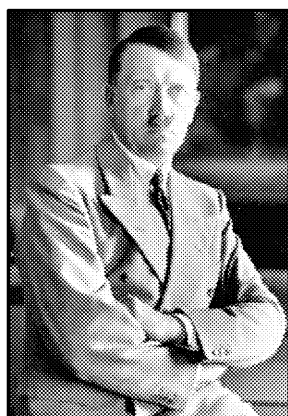
This suggests that the brain organises information not based on visual information (as participants had similar results) but on conceptual schemata, such as whether an object is living or not. Mahon et al. argued that the human brain is structured around the different conceptual categories and that these categories would have been important for evolutionary survival.



Takeaway point: Mahon et al. (2009) found that the existence of different types of objects is supported by neuroimaging evidence showing that different types of constructs are processed in different areas of the brain.

Is there evidence to support the involvement of schemata in memory?

Below we will consider some of the studies investigating Bartlett's schema theory.



Supportive study 1: Sulvin and Dooling (1974)

Task: They gave participants a story about a brutal dictator, either Gerald Martin or Adolf Hitler. Sulvin and Dooling wanted to see if identification of Hitler would lead to activations of a 'Hitler schema'. After reading the story, the participants were tested after a short or long interval of time. The recognition was higher for the Hitler story than the Martin story. The participants who had read the Hitler story had hated the Jews particularly and so persecuted them.'

Findings: They found that of the participants who had been asked to recall the story after a long interval, those who had the long interval between reading and recall believed that the sentence had appeared in the story. Those who had the short interval were not affected. This suggests that the number of memories is affected over time due to the effects of schemata in reconstructing the memory.



Takeaway point: Sulvin and Dooling (1974) found that activation of a schema leads to schema-consistent recall. This effect occurs when there has been a long interval between reading and recall, whereas shorter intervals were recalled correctly, suggesting that schemata are not activated when intervals are short.

Evaluation:

- **Strength:** The study was well controlled. The only difference between the two stories was the name that was used. This suggests that the difference between the two findings can be attributed to the change in name.
- **Weakness:** In real life, the information that Hitler persecuted the Jews would be likely to be present because he is very strongly associated with the Holocaust. Therefore, in real-life this error would not be a problem.

Consistent with schema theory

Supportive study 2: Anderson and Pichert (1978)

Task: Participants read a story about two boys who skipped school one day and went to a house because no one was home on Thursdays. The story included details about the house, such as a roof and a damp basement, but was in an attractive neighbourhood. Objects, such as a rare coin collection, were mentioned as being in the house. The story contained details that had been previously rated for their importance to a burglar or to a prospective homeowner. Half of the participants read the story from the perspective of a burglar and half of them from the perspective of a homeowner. Participants were asked to recall everything they could remember and then compared their recall after 10 minutes. The participants were again asked to recall the story, but this time half of the participants kept the same perspective as earlier and half of the participants kept the same perspective as earlier.

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Findings: Participants who changed perspective recalled 7.1% more information than those who did not. Participants who shifted perspective recalled more information that was unimportant to their new perspective. Participants who did not change perspective recalled more information that was still unimportant to their perspective.



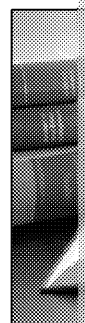
Takeaway point: Anderson and Pichert (1978) found that schema affects the retrieval process. Participants recalled more details of the story that were consistent with the schema and recalled fewer details that were irrelevant to the schema.

- **Strength:** High level of control in the experiment allowed the researchers to ensure that schema activation (due to perspective change) led to different amounts of information recalled.
- **Weakness:** It is difficult to know whether participants recalled information that they knew that their second recall was based on a different perspective, or whether they omitted information that was unimportant to the new perspective.

Supportive study 3: Brewer and Treyens (1981)

Task: They investigated whether our memory of objects in an office is influenced by the existing schemata about what objects are typically found in an office. Their 30 participants waited in what appeared to be a graduate's office for 35 seconds. They were then taken to another room and asked to write down everything they could remember from the room.

Findings: Participants recalled more schema-consistent objects (e.g. typewriter) than schema-inconsistent objects (e.g. skull). Participants also recalled schema-consistent objects that were not actually present in the room (e.g. filing cabinet and books).



Schema-consistent objects
that were not present in the room



Takeaway point: Brewer and Treyens (1981) found that schemata about an environment is not consistent with the schema. Schema-consistent objects present in the room were falsely believed to be present.

Evaluation:

- **Strength:** A recent study by Steyvers and Hemmer (2012) replicated these findings, showing that schema-consistent objects were well recalled, and also very schema-inconsistent objects were not expected to be found in that environment. This suggests that the findings are robust.
- **Weakness:** The study was conducted in a laboratory and, therefore, the results may not be representative of memory in real life. Steyvers and Hemmer (2012) argue that the study was useful, and that in a normal environment a filing cabinet and books would be expected to be present, so memory would not be prone to these types of error.

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Contemporary study: Reconstruction from memory in naturalistic environments (Steysers and Hemmer, 2012)

Steysers and Hemmer argued that memory in real-life is not prone to the kind of error that laboratory experiments often demonstrate. Laboratory experiments manipulate the environment so that it does not match our expectations. For example, an experimenter might ask participants to recall objects seen in an office but the experimenter has deliberately included no books in the photograph. A common finding in this type of experiment is that participants falsely recall that books were present. Steysers and Hemmer argued that these errors were the result of experimental manipulation and not an accurate representation of how memory works in a natural environment.



Steysers and Hemmer argued that these errors were the result of experimental manipulation and not an accurate representation of how memory works in a natural environment.

Instead of focusing on errors produced in research as being evidence of the fallibility of memory, Steysers and Hemmer focused on the insights these errors could provide into the function of memory. They argued that using real-life settings because this would provide insight into memory's true function.

Aim:

To investigate how our prior knowledge (schemata) influences our recall of episodic memory. Steysers and Hemmer wanted to investigate our recall for naturalistic scenes that had not been experienced in a laboratory.

Issues and debates: psychology as a science

Steysers and Hemmer's (2012) study was a response to the findings of Brewer and Treyer (2005). Brewer and Treyer argued that the finding that memory is not prone to errors in naturalistic settings (where schema-consistent items would be common and schema-inconsistent items would be uncommon) would not be prone to errors. A key feature of psychology as a science is the replication of others' studies and attempts to improve the theory. The aim of psychology is to understand human behaviour.

Task 4.4

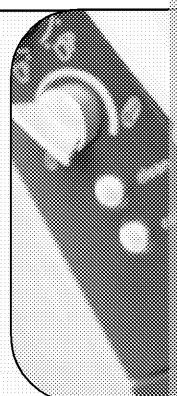
Name all the objects you might expect to find in a kitchen. What are your expectations?

Testing perceptual judgements

A separate group of participants provided perceptual judgements of photos of the objects they could see in the image). Twenty-five images were used, five from each category. The images were presented at two resolutions, one high-resolution and in colour. The frequency of named objects was recorded. The results showed that perception was accurate among the participants. This was necessary because although an object may be in the picture, it might not be perceived as such. Researchers found that perception was accurate among the participants.

Individual differences

Our prior knowledge and expectations (schemata) vary between individuals. If you compare a schema between two people, there will likely be overlap but also differences. For example, one person might think that a kitchen is incomplete without a coffee maker, whereas a non-coffee drinker may not expect to find that object in a kitchen. Since schemata guide our reconstructive process, there will also be individual differences in how memories are reconstructed.



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Memory condition

Forty-nine participants from the same university were randomly selected to take part in the study. These participants had not taken part in either the expectation or perception tests.

Ten photos from the perceptual judgements test were used in the scene, two from each scene, divided up into two groups of five photos (each with one photo from each scene). Each participant only saw one set of photos.

Participants were shown each photo for either two seconds' or 10 seconds' duration. This was to alter how much participants relied on their prior knowledge when retrieving the memory. It was expected that when participants have only viewed the scene for a short period of time then they have not had time to fully encode all the detail in their episodic memory. In this situation they would rely more heavily on their prior knowledge (semantic memory) to fill in the missing blanks. Those who have had more time to view the scene would have encoded more of the details of the scene and can reconstruct the memory more accurately using their prior knowledge.

It was believed that in situations where the expectation did not match the photo, participants would recall what they expected to see rather than what was actually in the photo. This would lead to the false memory of there being books in an office without books because participants would rely on their prior knowledge.

The orders of the pictures were randomised, and researchers recorded the recalled items.

Results and conclusions:

Low-probability items were more likely to be recalled when not actually present

Errors occurred when a participant named an object that was not in the photograph. The error rate was higher for low-probability objects than for high-probability objects. This was in terms of the probability that the object would be in the scene. Probable items were those that participants gave when testing their prior expectations. The overall error rate for high-probability objects was 9% and for low-probability objects 18%. These results conflict with Brewer and Treyens' finding of higher error rates for high-probability objects.

- ➔ Explanation: Steyvers and Hemmer argued that when the environment is more naturalistic, objects are likely to be in the scene and this leads to the lower error rates. When the environment is less naturalistic, objects are less likely to be present, and when activated, they will usually not lead to errors because the objects will be in the scene.

In naturalistic settings, it is rare that false memories occur for objects that are not present

They also investigated the false memories of recalling an object that was not present in the scene; for example, Brewer and Treyens' finding that participants recalled books that were not there. Due to the naturalistic environment, there were few items that were unlikely to be present, so this error was rare. In one picture a tablecloth was absent from a dining scene. A tablecloth had been identified as a high-probability item in the prior expectation task. An error rate of 19% was found. This error rate is much lower than Brewer and Treyens' finding of 30% error rate in recalling books that were not in an office.

- ➔ Explanation: Steyvers and Hemmer point to the importance of using naturalistic scenes. It would be very unlikely to find an office without books, and, therefore, this type of error would be rare in real life. In their naturalistic scenes, objects that are schema-consistent with the scene are likely to be present.

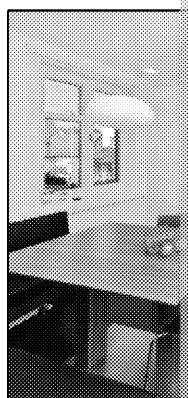
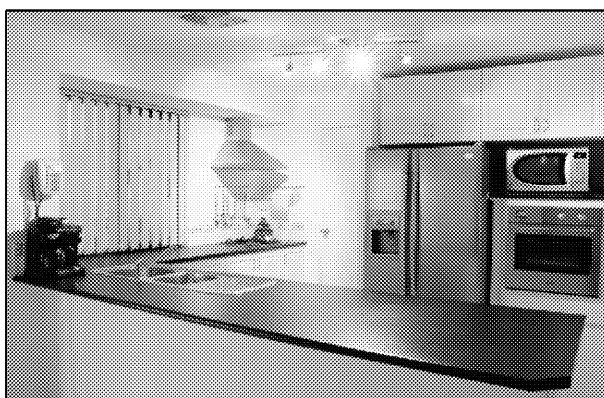
Both schema-consistent and schema-inconsistent objects have better recall

Brewer and Treyens found that objects that are consistent with the room schema are better remembered. However, they had specifically manipulated the environment to look for this type of error. Steyvers and Hemmer calculated whether the object was

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consistent by looking at whether all five pictures of the scene contained the object (e.g., a stove) and then compared this with the recall rates. They found that objects that matched the schema were recalled better.



Objects that were in all five photographs were rated to be the most consistent; objects that were only in one photograph were the least consistent

- Explanation: In a naturalistic environment consistent objects are likely to be recalled. The use of schemata may make inconsistent objects more noticeable as they do not match our expectations and, therefore, are recalled well.

Participants used their episodic memory in addition to their semantic memories

It is difficult to work out how much of what was recalled was due to the participants' semantic memories (based on their knowledge of the objects in the scene) and how much due to episodic memories. Steyvers and Hemmer investigated this by asking participants to recall objects from a scene without any stimuli (for example, guessing what objects were in the scene) with what was actually recalled. Recall was approximately 25% higher in the episodic memories are also used.

- Explanation: Prior knowledge, in the form of schemata, gives participants a baseline for what to expect. However, the scenes vary and, therefore, it is important that participants use their episodic memories. For example, the small wooden sailing boat that was in one picture was not stored in the participant's schema of that scene. However, some participants recalled it, showing that they used their episodic memories.

Evaluation:

The main strength of Steyver and Hemmer's approach is their attempt to use more natural settings to studying memory. By using natural settings which have not been experimental, they have a greater ability to learn about how memory works in real life.

One real-life application of Steyver and Hemmer's research is eyewitness testimony. By allowing the individual to gain the gist of the setting, which frees up cognitive resources, they can better match their expectations. Therefore, in an eyewitness situation people may be more likely to recall details that do not match their expectations.

However, the researchers themselves identify that their experiment is not as high as it could be. Unlike Brewer and Treyens' study in which participants entered a physical room, this study was also conducted in a laboratory instead of a natural setting. This suggests that, although a more ecologically valid choice, the findings may not represent how memory functions in the real world.

Steyver and Hemmer defend their choice of research method by arguing that there is a trade-off between the need for ecological validity and the need to control and measure the variables.

Task 4.5

Identify two aspects of the study that Steyver and Hemmer controlled, and explain how they controlled them.

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Real-life application: eyewitness testimony

An eyewitness testimony is a statement made by a witness about what they saw. It is used as evidence in a criminal court to try to determine what happened and whether the defendant is guilty. It is understandably very important that the witness statement is accurate, as the testimony influences the defendant's fate.

Loftus and Palmer (1974) conducted research to investigate some factors that could influence the accuracy of eyewitness testimony. In one part of their study they investigated the effects of misleading information on recall.

The experiment

One hundred and fifty students viewed a short video of a car accident and were asked questions on the accident. The critical question regarded the speed of the vehicles:

Fifty participants had the question 'About how fast were the cars going when they **hit** each other?'.
Fifty participants had the question 'About how fast were the cars going when they **smashed into** each other?'.
Fifty participants were not asked about the speed.

A week later, the participants answered 10 questions, and the critical question was 'Did you see any broken glass?' and there was no broken glass in the video.

Of the 50 participants in each condition:

- Hit: seven participants said 'yes'
- Smashed: 16 participants said 'yes'
- Control: six participants said 'yes'



The participants
several

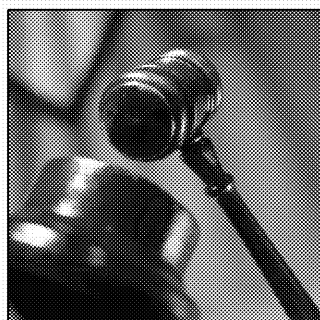
Linking the findings back to schemata

Participants who were asked the question using the verb 'smashed' activated a schema associated with a severe accident. When asked whether they had seen broken glass, they had not stored the information related to the question. Their schema filled the missing gap with what seemed likely. In a severe accident it would be likely that there would be broken glass. This led the participants to incorrectly recall there being broken glass.

Issues and debates: social control

One of the most interesting things about psychology is that it has many applications in everyday life.

One area in which cognitive psychology has been particularly influential is eyewitness testimony. Research has shown that eyewitness testimony is not as accurate or reliable as it is often thought to be. This is because memory is reconstructive in nature, which can lead to inaccuracies when recalling events. This has led to changes in legal practices, including how police officers interview witnesses. Eyewitness testimony is regarded in criminal courts.



Psychology research has identified that certain factors can make eyewitness testimony less reliable. For example, they found that memory is more reliable if the witness saw the incident in good lighting, had time to think about the event, and recalled the memory with little delay. However, if the witness does not match these factors, it can call into question the accuracy of their testimony.

In this sense, psychological knowledge has been used to influence the legal system by dictating who can give eyewitness testimony and how accurate it is.

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Evaluating schema theory

Strength: There is considerable support for the influence of schema on recall

From the research we have reviewed above, there are many findings to suggest that our memory is not an exact replica of what we have seen. There is some evidence to suggest that schema can influence recall. For example, Brewer and Treyens argued that schemata can lead to false memories. If the environment is not consistent with the schema, whereas Anderson and Pichert (1978) found an increased recall of relevant information and decreased recall of irrelevant information. Schemata are very useful.

Strength: There are important real-life implications

In situations where it is very important that memory is accurate, such as eyewitness testimony, we know how schemata can influence recall. For example, Loftus and Palmer's study showed that leading questions can activate schemata and lead to false schema-consistent memories, whereas Steyvers and Hemmer (2012) found that schemata can aid recall by allowing people to focus on schema-inconsistent details. These implications illustrate how important it is to be careful about our memories are before we use them as evidence that someone is guilty or innocent.

Weakness: The majority of research has been conducted in laboratory settings

Despite real-world implications, much research has been done with artificial stimuli such as photographs (Steyvers and Hemmer, 2012) and stories (Anderson and Pichert, 1978). Only Brewer and Treyens' study used an actual real-life setting; however, the environment was manipulated, which limits its ecological validity. The use of artificial stimuli and settings means that we should be cautious about whether these findings tell us anything about real-world memory. More research needs to be done on how schemata influence our day-to-day memory.

Issues and debates: how psychological understanding has developed over time

Findings on the reconstructive nature of memory have challenged the idea that memory is accurate. This has been particularly important in changing the way that we use memory in courts. Previously, these testimonies were assumed to be very reliable, and defendants were often convicted on an eyewitness statement. It is thought that many people have been wrongly convicted based on eyewitness testimonies, despite the witnesses being certain that their accounts were accurate.

Research by psychologists such as Loftus and Palmer found that our memory for events is not accurate. Studies resulted in a shift of focus from testimonies to forensic evidence. Eyewitness testimony is still used in the court of law, but there must be a wide range of other evidence taken into account before a conviction.

Other researchers have examined how to improve our recall of important events. Steyvers and Hemmer (2012) developed the cognitive interview technique as an alternative method. This new interview method involves encouraging the interviewee to recreate the context of the event, everything and examine the event from different orders and perspectives. A meta-analysis by Steyvers and Hemmer (2010) found that the cognitive interview technique led to more correct information and a decrease in incorrect information. There is a need for more research to be done to understand the benefits and drawbacks of using this technique on witnesses.

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Chapter 4 Activities

Task 4.6

Write notes on Steyvers and Hemmer (2012) in the table below. Try to do it in your own words. You can always reread the information afterwards and add anything you remember.

Contemporary study: Reconstruction from memory in naturalistic environments (Steyvers and Hemmer, 2012)	
Aim	
Method	
Findings and conclusions	
Evaluation	

Check your understanding!

- Q1. Briefly describe Bartlett's (1932) study of repeated reproduction. (4 marks)
- Q2. Describe one type of memory error that Bartlett identified. (3 marks)
- Q3. Briefly discuss the ecological validity of The War of the Ghosts story. (3 marks)
- Q4. Briefly describe one study that supports the theory that schemata influence memory. (3 marks)
- Q5. Identify and describe one strength of Steyvers and Hemmer's (2012) research. (3 marks)

Exam-style questions

- Q1. Explain two weaknesses of the methodology used in Bartlett's (1932) study. (4 marks)
- Q2. Bartlett (1932) used the concept of schemata to explain his findings on memory. Describe his schema theory. (3 marks)
- Q3. Evaluate one contemporary study that has been used to explain the nature of memory. (8 marks)

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Chapter 5: Experimental Research Methods Investigation

Overview

In this chapter you will learn how to tackle the practical investigation part of your assessment. You will learn about experimental research methods, quantitative data analysis and decision-making, and interpretation of inferential statistics. Throughout, you will be shown how this knowledge can be applied to your practical research exercise. A strong understanding of research methods will also come in handy for understanding and evaluating the experiments you come across in your course.

Learning outcomes

After studying this chapter you should be able to:

- ☐ Design a laboratory experiment
- ☐ Collect quantitative data and present it appropriately
- ☐ Analyse your data using a non-parametric test and draw conclusions
- ☐ Evaluate your study's strengths and weaknesses and consider how to improve your study
- ☐ Write up your study in the style used in psychology journals

Key Terms

Abstract	A section at the beginning of a journal article which gives an overview of the study
Aim	What the study intends to research
Cause and effect	The idea that changing one variable causes a change in another; a prediction possible
Confidentiality	Experimenters are not to disclose confidential information in a way that the participant is not identifiable from the data; data are replaced by numbers
Control	Preventing variables other than the independent variable from affecting the study
Counterbalancing	To avoid order effects, the order in which participants take part is changed; for example, half of participants may do Condition A then Condition B, half may do Condition B then Condition A
Critical value	A value found in a critical values table, which is used to determine if a result is significant
Debrief	A process after the study of revealing the true nature of the study to the participant
Deception	Deception is the act of deliberately misleading someone as part of an experiment
Demand characteristics	When the participant's behaviour is a reflection of how they think they should behave; responding to the 'demands' of the situation
Dependent variable	A variable which measures the presumed effect of the independent variable
Descriptive statistics	Numerical ways of describing the data by identifying key features
Directional hypothesis	The researcher predicts the direction of the effects
Discussion	A section of a journal article that relates the findings back to the aim, how the results compare to previous research outlined in the introduction
Double-blind technique	Neither the participant nor the experimenter knows which condition the participant is placed in; often used in drug trials
Ecological validity	The extent to which the findings can be generalised to other settings and to everyday behaviour
Experimental design	How participants are chosen and allocated to the different conditions
Experimenter effects	When the researcher provides subtle clues about the nature of the study to the participant to behave differently
External validity	The extent to which results are generalisable across settings and populations
Extraneous variables	Variables that may influence the behaviour in addition to the independent variable (manipulation of IV) and so should be controlled for
Field experiment	An experiment that occurs in real-life settings but the experimenter manipulates the independent variable

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Key Terms

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Hypothesis	A prediction of the outcome of the research
Independent groups	Different participants take part in each condition
Independent variable (IV)	A variable which is manipulated to produce a presumed effect
Inferential statistics	Tests conducted on the raw data to try to determine whether the results are significant
Informed consent	The participant knows exactly what is going to happen in the study Differs from just consent, when the person does not have to take part but agrees to take part.
Internal validity	The extent to which the behaviour is the result of the presumed cause (in the IV)
Introduction	A section of a journal article which discusses the reasons for the study and identifies the hypothesis and aim of the research
Laboratory experiment	An experiment conducted in an artificial environment that involves manipulation of the independent variable to examine its effect
Levels of significance	The level chosen (typically 0.05) which determines the critical value
Mann–Whitney U test	A statistical test that can be used for independent groups designs
Matched pairs design	Each participant is matched to another participant to form pairs on factors that are important for the study. Each participant is then tested with their opposite number acting as the control.
Mean	An average that is calculated by adding together all the values and dividing by the number of values there are. This measure takes into account the extreme values
Measures of central tendency	Measures that aim to find the central value of a data set
Measures of dispersion	A measure that describes how spread out the data is
Median	An average that is calculated by ordering the data by size and taking the middle value
Method/procedure	A section in a journal article that describes exactly how the study was conducted
Mode	An average that is calculated by ordering the data and identifying the value that occurs most often
Non-directional hypothesis	The researcher predicts that there will be an effect but does not predict the direction the effect will be
Normal distribution	A bell-shaped curve where the peak is the mean value, with the data spread out on either side of the peak
Null hypothesis	States there will be no effect
Operationalisation	Precisely defining your variables so that a hypothesis can be tested
Opportunity sample	A sample drawn from whoever is available at the time of the study, without criteria for participation
Order effects	When the later condition is affected by an earlier condition
Participant variables	Characteristics of the participants which may affect the results
Population validity	Whether the findings can be generalised to people outside the sample
Predictive validity	Predictive validity is whether the performance in the test can predict whether they think it should be able to predict.
Probability	The likelihood of an event happening
Protection from harm	Participants should be protected from psychological and physical harm and aware of anything that may present a risk to them
Random sample	A sample that is drawn so that members of the population have an equal chance of being selected
Randomisation	Altering the order of the material to reduce order effects
Range	A measure of spread that is calculated by subtracting the smallest value from the greatest value
Reliability	The extent to which results are consistent across observations
Repeated measures design	The same participants take part in all of the study conditions

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Key Terms

Results	A section in a journal article which presents the descriptive and inferential statistics
Right to withdraw	It should be made clear to participants that they have the right to withdraw at any point, and that any data from the study can be destroyed if they do
Sampling	The method of selecting participants from the required population for your study
Sampling bias	When the way the sample is selected does not represent the population
Significant result	The calculated value of the statistical test is less than or equal to the critical value determined by the level of significance
Situational variables	Variables in the environment which may affect the results of the study
Skewed distribution	A bell-shaped curve that is skewed towards one side and does not have a true mean
Standard deviation	A measure of spread that uses every point of data and compares it to the mean
Standardisation	The procedures and materials are identical, which exposes participants to the same environment and allows other researchers to repeat the study
Stratified sample	In a population with several groups, the number of people in each group is proportional to the size of each group; the correct numbers of these groups are selected
Systematic sample	Selecting the participants at a fixed interval after randomly selecting a starting point
Test-retest reliability	The study is repeated more than once to check for the reliability of the results
Type I error	When we reject the null hypothesis when we should have accepted it
Type II error	When we accept the null hypothesis when we should have rejected it
Volunteer sample	Participants self-select; they choose to participate in the study
Wilcoxon signed-rank test	A statistical test used on studies with a repeated measures design



Scene-Setting Questions

- How do we design an experiment?
- Why is it important that research is objective?
- What do psychologists mean when they say a finding is 'significant'?

The practical investigation

As part of your course, you will design and conduct a practical investigation into a topic of your choice. For the purposes of this chapter, we will be focusing on designing and conducting an experiment in experimental psychology.

In order to do well in this part of your assessment, you need to have sound knowledge of the concepts that surround experimental psychology and then apply that knowledge successfully. This chapter will focus on helping you acquire that knowledge and apply it.

Throughout the chapter, we will be working through the example of using an experiment to investigate the acoustic similarity of words will have an effect on short-term memory.

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Designing and conducting an experiment

What do you think of when someone says the word 'experiment'? Do you think of white lab coats and flasks of strange-smelling chemicals? An experimenter does not need to wear a lab coat, and experiments do not need to take place in a laboratory.

An experiment is a study that manipulates one variable (the independent variable) to measure the effect on another variable (the dependent variable). All other variables are controlled to make sure that it is only the effect of the independent variable that we are measuring. These controlled variables are called 'extraneous variables'. In some types of experiment (field experiments) it is not possible to control all of the extraneous variables and because of this we should be more cautious about attributing the cause to the independent variable.

Types of experiment: laboratory and field experiments

The two types of experiment that you need to understand are laboratory and field experiments.

Laboratory experiments

A laboratory experiment is conducted in an artificial environment which is controlled so that every participant experiences the same environment. The experimenter manipulates the 'independent variable' (IV) and investigates to see whether this manipulation produces a change in a variable termed the 'dependent variable' (DV).

For example, an experimenter might manipulate the length of words in each word list to see if longer words are better remembered than others.

Independent variable: Word length

Dependent variable: Number of words recalled from each list

The goal of laboratory studies is to establish 'cause and effect', which means that if a change occurs, then the change must be because of the independent variable.

Field experiments

A field experiment is an experiment that occurs in normal settings but still involves the manipulation of the independent variable. As a result, it tends to be more representative of real life compared to laboratory experiments, but field experiments also suffer from reduced control. Some participants in field experiments may not be aware that they are taking part in the experiment and this can result in ethical problems.

For example, an experimenter could stage a theft but alter whether the thief has a knife or a gun. The witness could then be asked to identify the thief from a line-up.

Independent variable: Whether the thief has a knife or a gun

Dependent variable: Identification of the thief from a line-up

Field experiments are also interested in 'cause and effect' but they are not as controlled as laboratory experiments. This means that factors called 'confounding variables' might influence the results. Confounding variables are things that have not been controlled for that might influence the results and confuse the findings. In the example above, it may be that the witness was tired and, therefore, their attention was not on the thief.

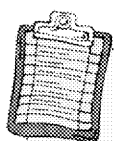
Although field experiments have less control due to the natural environment they are conducted in, they can control for some extraneous variables. In the example above, one thing the experimenter can control is to use the same actor in both the knife and gun conditions. By using the same actor, it is more likely that the dependent variable cannot be attributed to the actor having a more memorable face.

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A comparison: laboratory and field experiments

- A laboratory experiment is more artificial than a field experiment because (it is very different from real-life settings. This makes the finding less generalisable (less realism) because behaviour may be different from when it is produced in the real world).
- Field experiments have higher mundane realism, which means that the experimental situation is more similar to real life, and, therefore, the findings are more likely to be similar to real life.
- Field experiments are not rigorously controlled in the same way as a laboratory experiment. There may be environmental factors that influence the results.
- Both studies focus on establishing 'cause and effect' as the IV is directly manipulated and measured on the DV. However, the difficulty in controlling extraneous variables in field experiments means that caution should be applied when establishing cause and effect.
- Laboratory experiments are more prone to suffering from demand characteristics. Demand characteristics occur when the participant guesses the study's aims and tries to conform to the 'demands' of the experiment by behaving in a way that conforms to the expected results rather than how they would normally act.
- Field experiments often have ethical problems with informed consent because participants may not know they are taking part. In contrast, in laboratory studies, researchers usually obtain informed consent before the study begins.



Practical investigation: an investigation into whether the acoustic similarity effect on short-term memory

Our study will be a laboratory study. This type of experiment has been used to study the effects of acoustic similarity in a natural environment. By using a laboratory study, all the other factors can be carefully controlled to minimise the effects of extraneous variables.

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Task 5.1

Consolidate your knowledge by filling in these tables. Try to do it without notes. If you can always add extra details afterwards.

Laboratory experiment	
Definition:	
Advantage:	Write it fully:
Disadvantage:	Write it fully:

Field experiment	
Definition:	
Advantage:	Write it fully:
Disadvantage:	Write it fully:

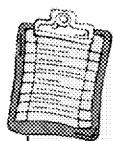
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Aim

The aim is a statement about what the researcher intends to study in their research. The researcher is asking 'What am I trying to find out?'. For most research, it is a fairly general statement about the theory or effects rather than specific experimental method. The aim does not specify the experimental method used in the study, although it might remark that it is testing whether a certain theory or idea. Different pieces of research could have the same experimental aim but use different methods.



Practical investigation: an investigation into whether the acoustic similarity of words has an effect on short-term memory

Our aim is to investigate the effect of the acoustic similarity of words on short-term memory.

This aim originates from previous findings that have found that the short-term memory is affected by acoustic encoding and, therefore, similar-sounding words may be poorly encoded and recalled compared to acoustically dissimilar words.

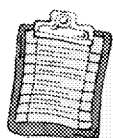
It is important that you know a bit about the background of your study before you write your aim.

The independent variable and the dependent variable

Once the aim has been decided, you need to decide what variable you are changing and what you are measuring this change.

The independent variable (IV) is the variable that you alter or manipulate with the experiment.

The dependent variable (DV) is the variable which measures the change that is (the effect of) the independent variable.



Practical investigation: an investigation into whether the acoustic similarity of words has an effect on short-term memory

We are interested in the EFFECT of acoustic similarity. This means that the variable that we manipulate is how acoustically similar the words are. Our independent variable is the acoustic similarity of words (acoustically similar or dissimilar).

We want to know the effect of acoustic similarity ON short-term memory. The dependent variable is the recall from short-term memory. Our dependent variable is how many words are recalled from short-term memory.

Hypothesis

A hypothesis (plural hypotheses) is a testable prediction about what the researcher expects the results of the study to be. The hypothesis is written in specific terms that relate to the experimental design.

Directional and non-directional hypotheses

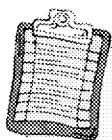
Hypotheses can either be directional or non-directional. A directional hypothesis states the direction of the effect, whereas a non-directional hypothesis simply states that there will be an effect. Researchers use a directional hypothesis when they have evidence from past research that supports a specific direction of findings.

Null hypothesis

A null hypothesis is an alternative statement that says that there will be no effect of the independent variable on the dependent variable. The null hypothesis is accepted if the experimental hypothesis is not supported.

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Practical investigation: an investigation into whether the acoustic similarity effect on short-term memory

We have two possible hypotheses:

- Directional: A greater number of acoustically dissimilar words will be recalled than acoustically similar words.
- Non-directional: There will be a difference in the number of acoustically dissimilar words recalled.

We are going to choose to use the directional hypothesis 'A greater number of acoustically dissimilar words will be recalled than acoustically similar words.' because prior research has shown greater difficulties in recalling acoustically similar words and letters.

Our null hypothesis will be that there is no difference between the number of acoustically dissimilar words recalled. If we accept our null hypothesis, this means that we are attributing any differences to chance.

Hypothesis construction

Science uses the hypothetico-deductive method, which argues that theories should be tested by experiments, and then the theory is refined. A hypothesis is formed and if the hypothesis is supported, then the hypothesis needs to be altered and investigated again.

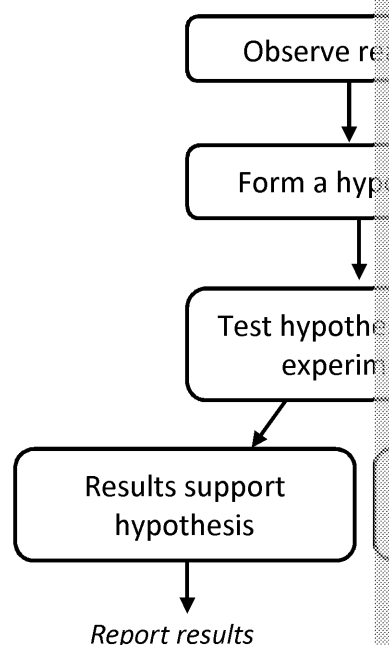
Hypotheses do not arrive out of nowhere. The researcher uses real-life observations, past research or preliminary research to propose an answer to a research question.

A hypothesis should be clear and direct

A hypothesis should be a simple statement about what is expected to happen. It should not include too much technical terminology. A hypothesis should be around 20 words or less.

A hypothesis should be testable

A hypothesis should be able to be tested through an experiment. The hypothesis should be worded in a way that tells readers how it will be tested. You should include the independent variable (what you are changing) and how this change will be measured (the dependent variable).



Experimental designs

An experimental design concerns whether participants take part in all of the experimental conditions.

Repeated measures design

In a repeated measures experiment, all participants take part in all of the conditions. The comparison in a repeated measures experiment is a pre- and post-test comparison. In this comparison, research is conducted before an intervention and measurements conducted afterwards.

Advantages	Disadvantages
Fewer participants: If there are only two conditions, a repeated measures design would require half the number of participants compared to an independent groups design. Reducing the number of participants saves time spent on recruitment and may be more economical in terms of time and payment for participants.	Order effects: Order effects can occur as fatigue can alter how a person performs in a second condition. A person doing a second condition might improve or perform worse if they are bored or tired of doing the same thing again.
No individual differences: In repeated measures, each person acts as their own control as they compare their results to their own results. There are no individual differences, which may make repeated measures a more accurate method of research.	Materials need to be controlled: When conducting a before-and-after experiment, the materials need to be designed so that they are the same in terms of difficulty and timing so they can be compared for a difference.

Independent groups design

In the independent groups design, each participant only takes part in one of the experimental conditions.

Advantages	Disadvantages
No order effects: As participants only take part in one condition, the effects of previous conditions cannot carry over and affect results in other conditions.	Individual differences: There may be individual differences unevenly within the experimental groups, which may not be appropriate to compare.
Sometimes the only option: In some cases, particularly with naturally occurring independent variables, a participant cannot be part of more than one condition. For example, in the case of gender, the participant cannot be both male and female.	More participants: Independent groups design requires new participants for each condition, which can be costly in terms of time and money as the participants are being recruited separately.

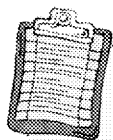
Matched pairs design

A matched pairs design involves having separate participants in each condition, but the participants are matched so that they are similar to each other. Factors important to the experiment are identified (e.g. age, gender, IQ) and each participant is matched to another participant that is similar in terms of these factors.

Advantages	Disadvantages
No order effects: Individuals do not repeat the conditions, which means the effect of one condition does not carry over to the next.	Difficult to match: It can be difficult to match participants on all the qualities that are identified as being important. The more difficult it becomes to match participants on all the qualities, the more difficult it becomes to match them.
Similar participants (fewer individual differences): In each pair, the participants act as controls for one another. The results from one participant are compared to someone who has few differences, and this method also allows the researcher to avoid practice effects.	Not always all factors are controlled: Some factors may be important to the experiment but not identified until after the experiment has been completed. These factors have been ignored. This may have been caused by overlooking factors or by the independent variable.

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Practical investigation: an investigation into whether the acoustic similarity of words has an effect on short-term memory

In this study we will use an independent groups design. One group of participants will study a list of acoustically similar words and another group of participants will study a list of dissimilar words.

The main reason this design has been chosen is to eliminate order effects. If participants completed both tasks (repeated measures), then it is likely that the second task may be affected by the first. Participants may put in less effort for the second list because they find it boring. Alternatively, there may be improved performance on the second list. This would be because a factor other than our independent variable is influencing recall rate.

A matched pair design has not been chosen because memory is not greatly influenced by order differences. It is difficult to identify factors that would need to be matched across conditions, so.

Sampling techniques

The population is all the people your study is relevant to. Usually the population is too large to study every single person. Instead, you take a sample of people drawn from the population to take part in your study. The sample should be designed so that it represents your population as a whole. Each person in the sample should be representative of each person in the population.

Random sample

A random sample is drawn so that members of the population have the same chance of being selected. No one person being more likely to be picked than another. The idea is that each person in the sample is therefore, representative of the population.

For example, if you are interested in all the students who are doing A Levels at your school, you could put all the students who meet this criterion and put all of the names in a hat and pick a random sample.

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sample is representative of your entire population Removes bias as all participants have an equal chance of being selected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Usually the population is too large to sample, so sampling to be conducted Not everyone may agree to participate, those that refuse may be biased, making the sample unrepresentative

Systematic sampling

Systematic sampling involves regularly selecting participants according to a fixed interval. You create a long list of people and selecting every 10th person. The first participant is selected randomly. There is no bias introduced with the selection of the first participant. The frequency of selection is determined by the desired sample size; for example, in a list of 1,000 with a desired sample size of 100, every 10th person would be selected.

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simple, easy-to-do approach which is less time-consuming than random sampling Evenly selected, which makes it likely that the sample will be representative of the entire population 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It does not account for the whole population, so the sample may be unrepresentative The sample is not necessarily random; it may be biased. It may be that the distribution of participants is not random. It may be that the sample shares some quality that affects the results, making the sample unrepresentative of the population. For example, if almost the entire sample selected is female, then the sample will make up a small number of the population

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Stratified sample

When you want to account for a population that has several groups, to get an accurate representation of the whole population you could sample a proportional number of people from each group.

For example, if you want to study attitudes to a new measure that will affect the entire school, you want to divide the population into important subcategories. For example, you might want to take into account the opinions from pupils according to their year group.



Group

If there are a lot more Year 7s than there are Year 10s, to get representative data you use stratified sampling. You examine what percentage of the total population then, when randomly selecting your sample, that percentage is

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	
Number	260	220	180	
Percentage of total population	26%	22%	18%	
Sample of 50	13	11	9	

Here a sample of 50 is desired. How many should be selected from each year group? You work out the proportion of the group in the population (the percentage). This can then be multiplied by the total sample size divided by your total actual target population.

The percentage:

$$\frac{260}{1000} = 26\%$$

For a sample of 50:

$$26\% \times \frac{50}{1000} = 13$$

Note: It is only stratified sampling when the selection of your stratified sample is conducted by another method, it is termed 'quota sampling'.

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sample is more representative than other methods Equal chance in being selected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It can be more difficult to recruit the number of people that Year 7s are readily available but Year 10s are not so have less time to take part in the study Not all populations can be clearly divided into groups. For example, a class is not just determined by economic status, making it difficult to divide people into lower and upper classes.

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Opportunity sample

An opportunity sample is a sample drawn from whoever is available at the time of the study. Participants must meet the required criteria for participation (for instance, they must be female or speak English).

For example, you might ask your friends and family to participate in a questionnaire survey on a busy street.

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These participants are easy to recruit Suitable for processes that are thought to be universal, for example, attention, memory, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Often results in quite a limited sample The sample is likely to be biased; for example, asking people on the street on a Tuesday morning will not include young people, who may be working during this time.

Volunteer sample

In a volunteer sample the participants choose to respond to an invitation or advertisement. They self-select.

For example, people might respond to an advert they have seen online for a study.

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Usually allows for a wider sample than opportunity sample Fairly suitable for investigations in which people are unlikely to differ significantly from the whole population 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Likely to be biased Sample may not be the same as the population Sample is restricted to those who have seen the advert or responded to an invitation

Which sampling technique should I choose?

As you can see, there are quite a few different sampling options. In your choice of sampling technique you should aim to avoid sampling bias and ensure your findings are generalisable to the population.

Avoiding sampling bias: Random sampling is usually seen as the gold standard in research because if a sample is not selected randomly, there will be a sampling bias. Sampling bias occurs when the way in which a sample is selected makes certain people more or less likely to be selected. A non-random sample will always be biased, but a random sample can be biased too as it might not represent the population well. Additionally, volunteer sampling is often affected by self-selection bias which occurs when participants who volunteer are in some way different from those who do not volunteer.

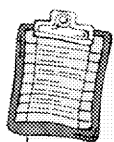
Make the findings generalisable: The sampling technique chosen has an effect on the degree to which the findings can be applied to other people: generalisability. If researchers want to apply their findings to the whole population, their sample must be representative of the characteristics of the whole population. Findings are most generalisable when the random samples tend to represent the population better.

Issues and debates: psychology as a science

Your choice of sampling is important because it determines how generalisable the findings are to the studied population. If research is not generalisable to the population, its usefulness as it tells us little about the people we are interested in.

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Practical investigation: an investigation into whether the acoustic effect on short-term memory

In this study we will use a volunteer sample.

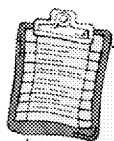
This design has been chosen because:

- the participants want to take part in the study and so are less likely to drop out
- it's an easier and less time-consuming method of recruiting participants than random sampling
- results are unlikely to be affected by self-selecting bias because personal memory
- memory is a universal characteristic and, therefore, most people (except those with memory problems) will be suitable for the study and representative of the population

You need to be able to justify your choice of sampling technique. Think carefully about which you will choose and why.

Operationalisation

Operationalisation involves very precisely defining your independent and dependent variables so that effects can be accurately measured. Another advantage of operationalising is that you can replicate your work, check it and improve on it.



Practical investigation: an investigation into whether the acoustic effect on short-term memory

How the IV will be operationalised: Participants will see one of two lists: an acoustically similar list and an acoustically dissimilar list. Both conditions will see a list of 10 words; all the words will occur frequently in the English language. Each word will be presented for three seconds.

How the DV will be operationalised: Recall rates will be measured by counting the number of words participants recalled from each list. The test will be of free recall.

Control and control issues

In an experimental design, it is crucial that you control for all other factors that could influence the dependent variable. The researcher should identify possible extraneous and confounding variables. If these variables are not controlled for, then they will go on to influence the dependent variable.

Extraneous variables

Extraneous variables are extra variables that may have an effect on the DV in addition to the IV that the researcher is studying. Extraneous variables should be controlled so that they do not influence the DV. Extraneous variables are identifiable and can be controlled by exposing all participants to the same conditions. In the ideal experiment, the only thing that differs between the conditions is the IV.

Example: A study investigates whether age affects attention. They split participants into two groups: Those who are aged 20 to 30 and those who are aged 50 to 60, and both groups perform the same computerised attention task. They found that younger participants performed better, suggesting there is an effect on attention.

However, what they failed to mention was that when the 20 to 30 group performed their tests the thermostat was broken and it was noticeably colder. Cooler temperatures are associated with improved attention and so this may have contributed to the results. This extraneous variable could be controlled for by making sure that all participants complete the task at the same temperature.

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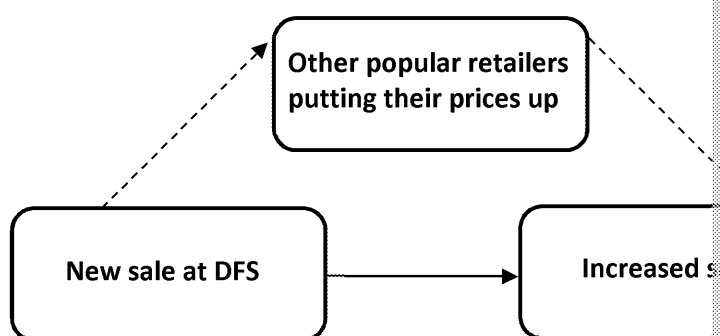
Task 5.2

A psychology study wants to assess whether gender influences levels of discomfort at a presentation on the topic of aeroplanes to a group of strangers.

Identify as many extraneous variables as you can, and, for each variable, describe how it can be controlled for.

Confounding variables

A confounding variable is a hidden third variable that produces the effect on the DV. If confounding variables are not controlled, then a study will have poor internal validity. We may believe the change in the DV is caused by the IV, but in fact it is caused by the confounding variables. Confounding variables damage the causal relationship between the IV and the DV.



Extraneous and confounding variables can be subdivided into two different types: participant variables.

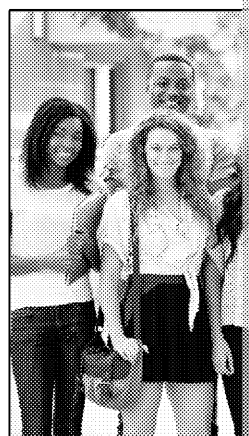
Situational variables

Situational variables are extraneous variables found in the study's environment. Time of day, insufficient lighting, or noise could influence the results of the study and should be controlled for. For example, the time of day might influence a study investigating changes throughout the day; in particular, we are much less alert if it is very early in the morning. To control for the variable of time of day, all participants take the study at the same time of day so that all participants are equally alert. Other situational factors should be eliminated to stop them from influencing the results. It is very important that participants do not have unwanted background noise, the study should be in a soundproof room.

Participant variables

Participant variables are the individual characteristics that participants bring to the experiment. These characteristics include IQ, personality, age, past history and mood. One individual characteristic that might be controlled for in a memory study is age. Older age people often experience short-term memory problems, while their long-term memories remain intact. Therefore, when studying short-term memory, it would be wise to control for the variable of age.

It would be extremely difficult to control for all possible situational and extraneous variables. Instead, those that might have an undesirable effect on the dependent variable should be controlled or eliminated.



Personality factors do not need to be controlled for.

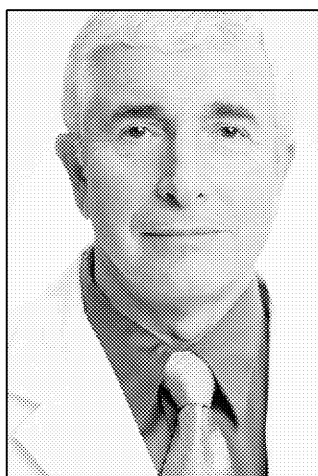
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Issues and debates: gender

Gender bias occurs when research and theory are based on one gender and applied to the other, for example, in only using male research subjects, because we cannot guarantee that men and women will behave the same. Memory is mostly stable across both genders; however, there is evidence that women have stronger working memory and can hold more items of verbal information.

Experimenter effects



The presence of an observer, particularly one that is given a higher status as an experimenter means that participants are unlikely to behave the same or feel as comfortable as they would in real life

Experimenter effects (also called 'investigator effects') occur when the way the experimenter behaves changes the way the participant behaves. This is often done unconsciously, as the experimenter acts towards the participant in a way that gives them clues about the experiment.

For example, a drug trial study has two groups of participants with obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD), one that receives the real drug and one that receives a placebo. If the experimenter knows that the participants are in the placebo group, then they may unconsciously show surprise or doubt about the symptoms.

Investigator effects can be reduced using a double-blind technique, neither the participant nor the experimenter knows which participant has been allocated to or the exact nature of the treatment. This contrasts with a single-blind technique, such as the one described above, when the experimenter, but not the participant, knows which participant is in.



EXAM TIP: It is just as useful to be able to identify a problem as it is to offer a remedy for it.

Knowing how to reduce a problem can set you up to answer the question 'How would I design a study to investigate...'

Demand characteristics

Demand characteristics occur when the participant interprets clues that tell them about the nature, aims or predictions of the experiment. This can cause them to adjust their behaviour (consciously or unconsciously) and act according to the aims.

Critics have argued that studies that show extreme results may have been subject to demand characteristics.

Demand characteristics can be reduced by making it less clear what the nature of the experiment is. This may be achieved by using deception, natural settings or participants who are not aware they are participating (such as in observation studies).

Real life.

A surprising finding in research is that students often perform better in a lab setting than in a real-world setting. This is a problem for students who are aiming to pass exams who have never before. So, a follow-up question is: what the

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Reducing order effects

Sometimes, the order in which participants complete tasks or view stimuli can influence the results. The two main order effects are the fatigue effect (the participant does worse on later tasks) and the practice effect (the participant improves on later tasks).

If researchers anticipate these effects, then they can take them into consideration.

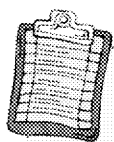
Counterbalancing

Counterbalancing is performed to reduce order effects, such as the effect of practice. The order in which participants do certain tasks affects the results.

To counterbalance, participants are divided into two groups, with half of participants doing Test 1 first and half doing Test 2 first.

For example, a study is interested in a new drug that has been designed to improve memory. In the study, all participants took Test 1 to assess their baseline performance and then half took the drug and half of the participants received a placebo. The participants then took Test 2, and their performance was assessed. Surprisingly, the researchers found that participants were worse in Test 2. What happened?

Participants may have done much worse on Test 2 because of boredom. Having to do the same task twice may have put reduced effort into Test 2, resulting in poorer performance. To reduce order effects, participants could do Test 1 first and half could do Test 2 first. Although this will not eliminate the effect, it will make each test more comparable.



Practical investigation: an investigation into whether the acoustic environment has an effect on short-term memory

Counterbalancing is very important for a repeated measures design because participants are exposed to one condition, and so there should not be any order effects.

If you are doing a repeated measures design, you should consider whether there are any order effects that you need to account for. You can use counterbalancing by having half of the participants do Task 1 first and half of the participants do Task 2 first. You should randomly assign the participants to the two groups.

Randomisation

To reduce order effects, materials are also presented in different orders.

For example, imagine there are three tasks:

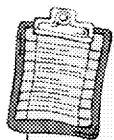
- A) A difficult task involving attention and memory
- B) A personality questionnaire
- C) A questionnaire that asks personal information about participants' drug and alcohol use

It may be that the order of these tasks affects how participants respond. For example, doing the difficult task first may make participants bored and not concentrate for the rest of the task, or doing the personality questionnaire first may make participants reluctant to be truthful throughout the study.

This may be randomised so that an equal number of participants do:
ABC ACB BAC BCA CBA CAB

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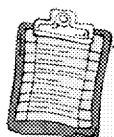
Practical investigation: an investigation into whether the acoustic similarity effect on short-term memory

Our experiment only has one task which limits order effects. It could be that the first list influences recall. However, since the words in each list are all monosyllabic, there would be large order effects.

You should only take measures to control order effects if you think they are present.

Method/procedure

Once your participants have arrived, what happens next? In your write up, it is important to describe what your participants had to do, the order in which tests were given and how long it took to complete the tests.

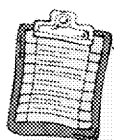


Practical investigation: an investigation into whether the acoustic similarity effect on short-term memory

The participants read the participant information sheet which gave details of what they had to do during the study and then signed a consent form agreeing to participate. They were randomly allocated to either the acoustically similar condition or the acoustically dissimilar condition. They watched one of two PowerPoint presentations. The presentations showed the words on the screen with each slide presenting the word for three seconds before moving on to the next slide. The participants used the pen and paper provided to write down any words that they could remember. They were to begin writing immediately at the end of the presentation and had one minute to complete their list. Participants were thanked for their participation and given a debrief form explaining the predictions of the study. They were reminded that they could withdraw their data at any time and their data would be kept anonymous.

Materials/apparatus

You need to think about any materials or apparatus you might need to use in your experiment. This could range from questionnaires and photographs to computer equipment or medical equipment. Often it will be important that the same materials or equipment are used for every condition to ensure that something other than the independent variable is not affecting the change in the dependent variable.



Practical investigation: an investigation into whether the acoustic similarity effect on short-term memory

We will be using word lists in our experiment. We have a list of 10 words that are acoustically similar and 10 words that are acoustically dissimilar. Participants will only be given one list.

Acoustically similar

tin	inn
fin	thin
sin	win
twin	skin
pin	bin

Acoustically dissimilar

once
ace
day
live
bee

Our lists have been designed so that the words are all monosyllabic because recall is affected by the number of syllables rather than the word length. The words are also all common words that are frequently used. Infrequently used or difficult words may be affected by unfamiliarity. By designing our lists this way, we have eliminated some of the factors that could alter recall.

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Other necessary materials may include:

- a participant information sheet which participants read before taking part
- a consent sheet to gain consent to take part in the study
- a debrief form which participants read after the study to learn about its true purpose

Objectivity

Objective research is free from bias caused by the experimenter.

Research must be carefully designed to produce objective measurements that are not influenced by the experimenter's wishes or other subjective factors.

Some types of data are easy to measure objectively; for example, using a stopwatch will give you an objective measurement of the time and this measurement cannot be disputed. However, if you were to guess how long the time had been, this would not be objective. For example, your measurement of time might be influenced by how long you expect a certain task to take, and whether you are impatient or bored.

Memory is a construct and, therefore, not possible to directly measure. However, carefully controlled experiments and neuroimaging techniques can allow researchers to collect objective data.

Reliability

Reliability concerns how consistent a measure is; that is, would the results change if you had conducted an experiment, you would not want the findings to be different if the experiment was conducted because this would suggest that some other variable was influencing the results.

There are a number of different ways to assess reliability, but test-retest reliability is the most important to know for experiments.

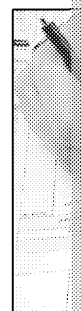
Test-retest reliability: Are the results consistent across time?

This method involves having the participant complete the test once and then repeat the test after some time has passed. The results are then compared and examined to see if they have changed.

If an adult completed an IQ test, we would expect the results to be the same a month later; it should have good test-retest reliability. However, other tests, such as when testing depression, may not be expected to be as consistent because a person's symptoms may improve or get worse.

How can we improve reliability?

- **Standardise experiments:** Participants in the same experimental condition complete the same experiment. This minimises differences which may affect the reliability of the results. For example, participants may receive different instructions which may alter their responses to questions.
- **Easy-to-understand questions and instructions:** Participant confusion may affect the reliability of the results. Reliability can be improved by making it clear how to answer questions or complete questionnaires that are received through the post, it is important that researchers ask clear questions as there is no opportunity to ask questions to the researchers. Therefore, important instructions are easy to understand.



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Validity

Validity concerns the accuracy or correctness of the results. Validity is generally internal and external.

Internal validity is concerned with whether the results are correct and accurate. Internal validity is interested in whether the research has established cause-and-effect between the independent variable and dependent variable, or whether the result has been influenced by confounding variables. The researcher should consider whether there are alternative causes that might explain their results.

One method of assessing internal validity is by examining predictive validity. Predictive validity is whether the performance on the test can predict an outcome that we think it should be able to predict. For example, we would expect that GCSE results would be able to predict academic success in A Levels.

External validity is concerned with how generalisable the research findings are. The two main types of external validity are ecological validity and population validity. Ecological validity refers to whether research can be generalised to settings outside of those the research was conducted in; for example, everyday settings. Research with high ecological validity usually uses naturalistic, real-life settings, which means that the findings are more representative of real life. In contrast, research with poor ecological validity often uses artificial stimuli and lab settings, which reduces the generalisability of the findings. Population validity is whether the findings can be generalised to the population interested in studying, but sometimes unique qualities of their sample mean that the findings only apply to the sample. Reducing sample bias leads to higher population validity.

How can we improve validity?

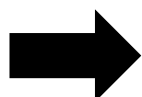
- **Double-blind technique:** Demand characteristics are reduced when neither the participant nor the experimenter know the true nature of the study
- **Real-life setting:** Laboratory settings may produce demand characteristics where participants are aware that they are being tested
- **Standardised procedure:** A standardised procedure means that all the participants receive the same instructions, which reduces differences between the participants that could affect the results
- **Counterbalancing:** This reduces order effects, which minimises the risk that the results are the result of order effects
- **Careful sampling:** Careful sampling such as randomised sampling and stratified sampling ensures that the results are not the consequence of a sampling bias

Ethical issues in experimental research

Before conducting any study, researchers should consider ethical problems that may arise from the research and how they could ameliorate them. Psychologists must submit the research to an ethics committee for review and approval. The participants' safety should be of primary concern to the researcher and should be put before any research aims.

Ethical issues include:

Informed consent: Participants should agree to participate in the study while having understood the important components. In studies that use deception but still have participants agree, researchers only collect 'consent' rather than informed consent.

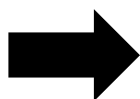


***What can be done?** Participants should be provided with the important information about the study before participating, and be asked for consent. After the study, participants should be given a debrief form which gives the full details of the research. This includes any deception used and the reasons for using deception in the research.*

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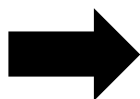


Deception: Deception occurs when a participant has been misled about what the researcher is investigating. The most common reason for deception is that participants will change their behaviour if they know what is being studied, which makes it difficult to accurately study the behaviour.



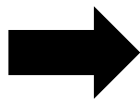
What can be done? The decision to use deception should not be made lightly. It should only be used when the research cannot be conducted successfully without it. Participants will act differently if they know they are being studied. When deciding to use deception, researchers should consider whether the benefits outweigh the risks. There can be serious ethical problems when deception is used to obtain information or when the findings might have personal or legal consequences. Participants who have been deceived should be fully debriefed and told the true nature of the study. They should also be told that their results will be anonymous and that the findings will be destroyed if they wish.

Protection from harm: Participants should be protected from experiencing psychological or physical harm that lasts beyond the confines of the study. Psychologists should take suitable preventive measures and offer follow-up care if they believe harm may have been caused.



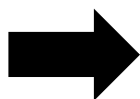
What can be done? Research can sometimes put participants under stress or discomfort, and in some cases, even cause physical harm. All efforts should be made to minimise this. The researcher should not conduct any research that is expected to cause psychological or physical harm to the participant. Participants should be informed of the potential risks of harm prior to taking part in the study and should be allowed to stop at any time. The researcher should also carefully monitor the participant and stop the study if they judge that the psychological or physical harm being experienced outweighs the benefits. First aid should be offered if the participant has experienced harm.

Right to withdraw: Participants should be offered the right to leave the study at any time without penalty. Their findings should be removed from the results.



What can be done? Participants should be told about their right to withdraw at the start of the study. In studies which place the participant under stress or discomfort, this should be emphasised. At the end of the study, participants should be reminded of their right to withdraw their findings for any reason.

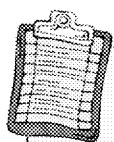
Confidentiality: It is important for participants' results to remain anonymous, especially if the study involves sensitive or unique information. Failure to do so affects the individual's right to privacy.



What can be done? The findings of the study should never use the participant's name. They should be replaced with a random number or initials to protect their identity. Data should be stored on separate files so that if one file is read, the reader does not know which participant's information it is.

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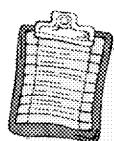
Practical investigation: an investigation into whether the acoustic similarity effect on short-term memory

Participants will be protected by:

- informing participants about the study and asking for consent before starting
- not using any serious form of deception
- the fact that no harmful effects are anticipated
- informing participants that they can leave the study at any time and their data withdrawn from the findings
- keeping participants' identity anonymous by using a number rather than a name
- debriefing the participants and telling them about the full details of the study

Your raw data

While doing your study, you will need to collect your results on a participant-by-participant basis. You will then need to bring them all together afterwards. Usually, the easiest way to organise your results is in a table.



Practical investigation: an investigation into whether the acoustic similarity effect on short-term memory

Table 1. Participant scores for the number of words recalled

Acoustically similar words		Acoustically dissimilar words
Participant	Number of words recalled (max = 10)	Participant
1	6	1
2	4	2
3	5	3
4	4	4
5	6	5
6	8	6
7	4	7
8	7	8
9	4	9
10	5	10

The recall scores for acoustically similar words are generally higher than those for acoustically dissimilar words.

However, we cannot say that our experimental hypothesis is supported just from this data. Further analysis needs to be done before we can reach any conclusions.

You may be able to see patterns in your raw data; for example, whether high or low scores are more common, or whether there is a large difference between the groups. While it is good to be able to see these patterns, you should not draw any conclusions without further analysing it.

Issues and debates: psychology as a science

Science is objective: In order for psychology to be considered a science, research must be conducted in such a way that the researcher does not bias the results of the study. If the researcher's own expectations, sound and extraneous variables have been controlled for, then the findings should be objective. If the findings do not match the researcher's own expectations, the study is not considered scientific.

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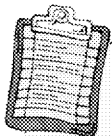


Presenting your results: Tables and graphs

The way data is presented can alter how easy it is to understand and interpret.

Tables

Tables are useful as they are an effective way of presenting and organising large amounts of data. However, it can be difficult to see relationships or trends in the data and to interpret the data.



Practical investigation: an investigation into whether the acoustic effect on short-term memory

Table 2. A frequency table showing how many participants recalled each word from a list

Word	Number of participants
once	10
ace	8
day	7
live	6
bee	7
wood	7
air	4
ball	8
tip	8
cat	10

Although this table says 'Number of participants' this is just another way of saying 'Frequency'. Frequency tables are one of the most commonly used tables, but tables can be used to present a wide range of information.

Why use a table to present information?

Tables can be very useful for organising information so that it can be read more easily and to locate information in a table than in unorganised lists.

When should you not use a table?

If you have very little information to present, it can be better to simply write the information out. Alternatively, if you have a lot of information or if you wish draw comparisons between different groups, it is better to put some or all of the information into a chart.

Tips on creating tables

Follow these tips when creating your table:

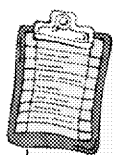
- Use clear headings for each column.
- Too many columns and rows may mean that you are trying to present too much information in one table.
- Label your table with *Table 1.* (or 2, or 3, etc.) followed by a short description of the data.

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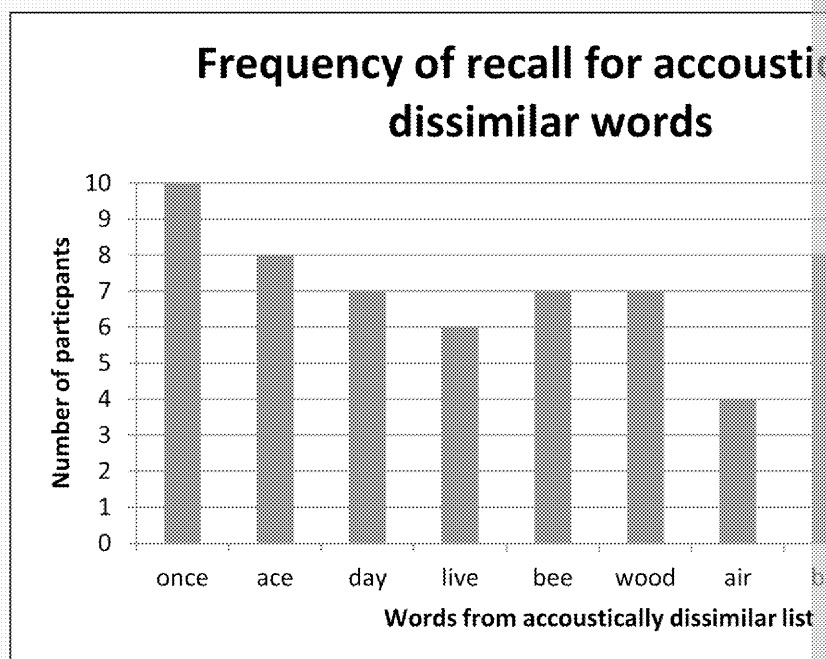
Bar charts

Bar charts are useful for representing frequency information in a way that it can be compared. Each bar tends to represent a category, and its height determines the frequency.



Practical investigation: an investigation into whether the acoustic similarity effect on short-term memory

Figure 1. A bar chart showing frequency of recall for words from the acoustic similarity list.



Why use a bar chart to present information?

The main reason for using a bar chart instead of a table is that it is easier to compare. For example, it is very easy to see that 'air' is the smallest bar and to see how this compares to the other words.

When should you not use a bar chart?

If you have very few categories, it may be better to use a table or to simply write down the data. Whether the bar chart will add anything extra that text or a table would not show is a matter of judgement.

Tips on creating bar charts

Follow these tips when creating your bar chart:

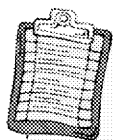
- The frequency should go on the y-axis and your categories should go on the x-axis.
- Make sure you label your x-axis and y-axis clearly; put any necessary units on the y-axis.
- Write a title for your bar chart that reflects what it shows.
- The bars on your bar chart should all be the same width.
- An axis that uses numbers does not have to start at 0; choose a number that makes sense for the data.
- Label your bar chart with *Figure 1*. (or 2, or 3, etc.) followed by a short description of the data.

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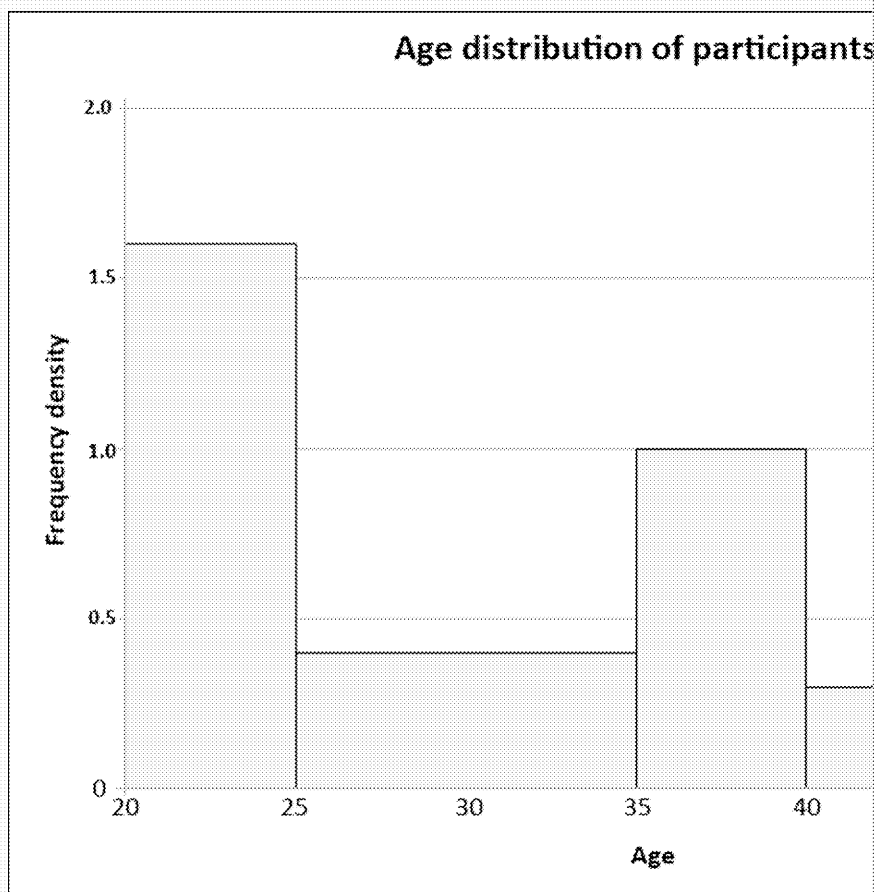
Histograms

Histograms allow you to present frequency data that has been grouped into different categories. For example, you might split up the data of your participant ages in ranges of 20–25, 26–35, etc. Note that the widths of the categories do not need to be equal and, therefore, the widths of the bars do not need to be equal.



Practical investigation: an investigation into whether the acoustic effect on short-term memory

Figure 2. Histogram showing the age distribution of the 20 participants who took part in the investigation.



To work out the frequency of a bar, you need to multiply the width of the bar by the frequency density. You need to be able to work out the frequency of each bar; remember that the total frequency must equal the number of participants.

The histogram above was produced using this table:

Age (years)	Frequency	Class width	Frequency density
$20 < a \leq 25$	8	5	1.6
$25 < a \leq 35$	4	10	0.4
$35 < a \leq 40$	5	5	1.0
$40 < a \leq 50$	3	10	0.3

Our first column shows how we have divided age into different categories.

$20 < a \leq 25$ means that ages that are greater than 20 but less than or equal to 25 fit into this category. This is participants with the ages 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25.

Frequency is how many participants fit into this category. If you are looking at the histogram, frequency is the area of the bar.

In histograms, the bar height is not the frequency; it is the frequency density. The bar height is called 'frequency density'.

Frequency density is calculated as:

Class width is the width of the bar. You need to work this out for each bar.

Our first category is 20–25. The width is 5.

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Why use a histogram to present information?

Histograms are used to show the distribution of data, and differ from bar charts in that the bars must be of equal size. They are useful for showing data such as length, time, or test scores.

In some situations it can be useful to group these into unequal ranges. For example, a teacher may wish to separate those that are very low and very high from the rest of the class.

When should you not use a histogram?

You should not use a histogram to present small amounts of information that would be better presented in text. You should not use a histogram to represent non-numerical categories such as gender. You should use a bar chart for this. Use histograms to represent ranged data.

Tips on creating histograms

Follow these tips when creating your histogram:

- The frequency density should go on the y-axis and your ranges should go on the x-axis.
- Start with a blank table like the one below:
 - Start by filling in your ranges, which will form the bars of your histogram.
 - Count the frequency of the data that fits each range.
 - Work out the class width by counting out how many numbers fit in each range.
 - Calculate the frequency density by dividing the frequency by the class width.

Ranges	Frequency	Class width	Frequency density

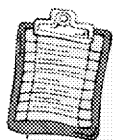
- The numbers on your frequency density axis tend to be small and are often fractions. Choose an appropriate scale.
- Label your histogram with *Figure 1.* (or 2, or 3, etc.) followed by a short description of the data.

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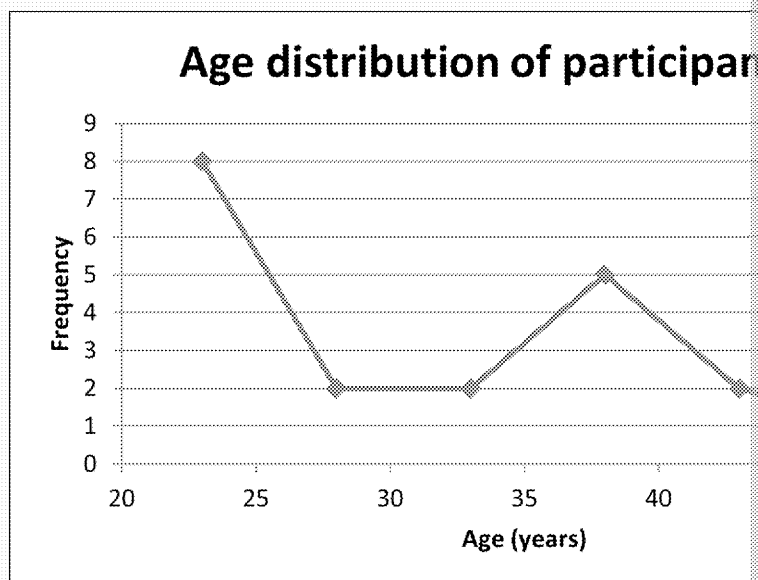
Frequency graphs

Frequency graphs (frequency polygons) are useful for showing the frequency of data for equal ranges because the shape of the line can tell you interesting things about the data.



Practical investigation: an investigation into whether the acoustic effect on short-term memory

Figure 3. A frequency polygon showing the age distribution of 20 participants



This frequency polygon was produced from the table below:

Ranges	Midpoint	Frequency
21–25	23	8
26–30	28	2
31–35	33	2
36–40	38	5
41–45	43	2
46–50	48	1

Our first column shows how we have divided age into different categories.

You could also represent this information as inequalities.

E.g. $21 \leq a < 25$

The midpoint is the middle number.

You can calculate this by adding the two numbers and dividing your answer by 2.

$$21 + 25 = 46$$

$$46 \div 2 = 23$$

Why use frequency polygons to present information?

Frequency polygons are useful because they provide a visual for ranged data. They tell you about the distribution of the data. You will read more about this in the next section on statistics.

When should you not use a frequency polygon?

You should not use a frequency polygon to present small amounts of information from a table or text. You should not use a frequency polygon to represent categorical data, such as 'cat', 'dog' or 'bird'; you should use a bar chart for this. Use frequency diagrams to show the distribution of data.

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Tips on creating frequency polygon

Follow these tips when creating your frequency polygon:

- The frequency should go on the y-axis and a suitable scale for the topic you are measuring on the x-axis.
- Start with a blank table like the one below:

Ranges	Midpoint	Frequency

- Start by choosing how you will divide the topic you are measuring into ranges.
- Calculate the midpoint by adding the upper and lower boundaries and dividing the answer by 2.
- Count the frequency of the data that fits each range.
- Draw a point for the midpoint and frequency of each row.
- Label your frequency polygon with *Figure 1*. (or 2, or 3, etc.) followed by frequency diagram.

Analysing your results: Descriptive statistics

Descriptive statistics are used to describe what the data shows by identifying key features.

Measures of central tendency

Measures of central tendency look at what the central value of the data set is, and the mean, median and mode.

Mean – the mean is the most used measure of central tendency. It is found by adding all the values in a data set and dividing by the number of values there are.

For example, the mean of 14, 18, 9, 23, 14, 7 and 99 would be found by doing:

$$\frac{(14 + 18 + 9 + 23 + 14 + 7 + 99)}{7} = \frac{184}{7} = 26.3$$

Median – the median is the middle point of the data. This is calculated by rearranging the data in order and then identifying the middle number.

For example, the median of 14, 18, 9, 23, 14, 7 and 99 would be found by:

First rearranging it in order: 7, 9, 14, 14, 18, 23, 99

Then considering that there are seven numbers and 14 is in the middle, so the median is 14.

If there is an even number of data points, then there will be no single middle number. You will have two middle numbers and work out the point halfway between them. This will be your median.

Mode – the mode is the value that occurs most frequently in the data set. This can be found by counting how many times each value occurs.

For example, the mode of 14, 18, 9, 23, 14, 7 and 99 would be found by:

Noticing that there is one of each number, except 14 where there are two. Therefore, the mode is 14.

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Sometimes there is more than one mode; for example, in the set: 18, 28, 17, 42,

In this case, both 18 and 17 occur twice so they are both the modes; this is called

When all the numbers only occur once, then we say there is 'no mode'.

Measures of dispersion

Measures of dispersion look at how spread out the data is. For example, in the data set 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 89, 6 is much more spread out.

Range – a simple measure of dispersion that uses the highest and lowest values subtracting the lowest value from the highest value.

For example, the range of 14, 18, 9, 23, 14, 7 and 99 would be found by:

Subtracting the lowest from the highest value: $99 - 7 = 92$

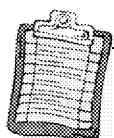
Standard deviation – a more accurate measure of dispersion that uses all of the values. Standard deviation looks at how far each value is from the averaged mean, or how much the values differ from the average. A smaller spread will mean the average is more representative of the group. A larger spread will mean the average does not represent the entire group well enough.

For example, the standard deviation of 14, 18, 9, 23, 14, 7 and 99 is 32.5.

This is the formula:

$$s = \sqrt{\frac{\sum x^2 - \frac{(\sum x)^2}{n}}{n-1}}, \text{ where:}$$

- S = standard deviation
- Σ = sum of
- x = the scores
- n = number of subjects/scores
- $\sqrt{}$ = square root



Practical investigation: an investigation into whether the acoustic space effect on short-term memory

Table 3. Calculated averages and dispersion for acoustically similar and dissimilar

	Acoustically similar words	Acoustically dissimilar words
Mean	5.3	7.5
Median	5	7.5
Mode	4	9
Range	4	5
Standard deviation	1.4	1.8

What conclusions can we draw from our descriptive statistics? Our mean, $M = 1.56$, is lower than the mean for the acoustically dissimilar list. This says that, on average, the acoustically similar words are rated as being better than the acoustically dissimilar words. Both the range and standard deviation are smaller for the acoustically similar words. This tells us that there is slightly more variation in ratings for the participants in the acoustically dissimilar list in comparison to the acoustically similar list.

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Task 5.3

Chris is interested in whether temperature affects the time it takes for a participant to finish a task.

He has half of his participants do the task in a hot room then a cold room, and the other half do the task in a cold room and then a hot room (to minimise order effects). The temperature remained the same for all of the participants and the results were measured in seconds.

	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7
Hot	63	75	69	59	83	54	63
Cold	49	54	60	57	84	45	74

Calculate the mean, median, mode and range for the hot room and for the cold room.

Do you think that temperature does affect speed? Back up your answer with evidence.

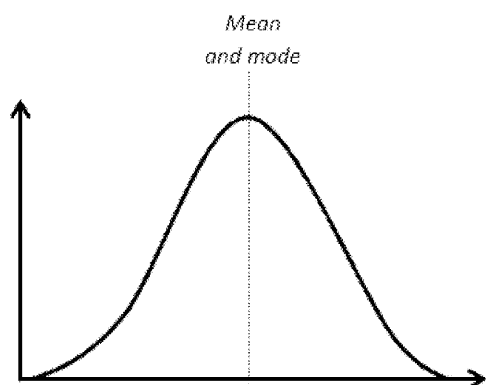
Distributions

How the data is spread across the group is referred to as its distribution. For example, for exam grades, the possible grades are: A*, A, B, C, D, E and U. If we want to know the distribution of grades, we examine how many people have got each grade and then compare the grades to each other.

Characteristics of normal distribution

Normal distribution is the most common type of distribution and it occurs naturally. A normal distribution has the shape of a bell curve, and this shape indicates that the majority of the data is in the middle range and the frequency of the data on either side of the curve decreases symmetrically.

Here is a normal distribution curve:

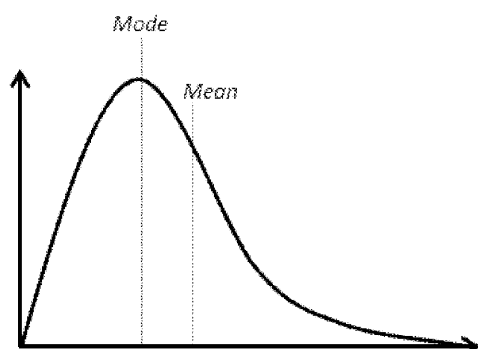


The precise shape of the normal distribution is determined by the mean and standard deviation of the data. The mean is the average of the data, and the standard deviation is a measure of the spread of the data. The peak of the curve is at the mean, and a short and narrow curve is a reflection of a small standard deviation (the data is very similar).

Note that most data only fits the curve exactly.

Characteristics of skewed distribution

Quite often in data, we get skewed distribution, where the peak of the curve is skewed to one side.



In this skewed distribution, most of the data is concentrated on the left side, rather than the centre of the graph.

In skewed distribution, the peak of the curve is determined by the mode, not the mean. This is because the mean is pulled towards the tail of the distribution curve, where the mode is at the top of the curve.

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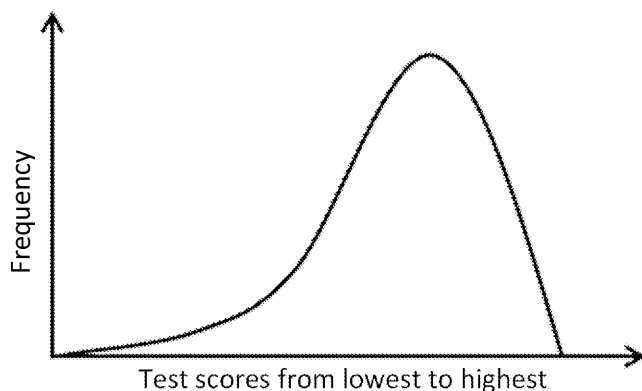


Why is it important?

It is important to know the type of distribution as this will affect which statistical test of statistical test (parametric tests) require data to have a normal distribution. This is important when comparing with the mean. When using the mean, it is important that the data is normally distributed because outliers will affect the results.

Task 5.4

Examine the curve below:



- What type of distribution is this?
- What does the curve say about test scores?
- Label the mean on the curve.
- Label the mode on the curve.
- Explain why the mean and mode are labelled this way.

Analysing your results: Inferential statistics

The most common reason for statistical testing is that we want to know if our data is significant. What this essentially means is how sure we can be that any effect found was due to the treatment and not just a chance event or an error.

There are two tests you need to know:

- Mann–Whitney U for studies that use an independent groups design
- Wilcoxon signed-rank for studies that use a repeated measures design

We will go through a worked example for each test. Here is some information that you need to know.

Probability

Probability is the likelihood of something happening. If you flip a coin, there is a 50% chance of heads. This can also be written as 0.5, where 1 means that something will always happen and 0 means that something will never happen.

When we use statistical tests, we are testing the probability that the difference between groups is due to chance or error. We want the probability that the difference is due to chance or error. However, within psychology it is almost impossible to guarantee that the change in the independent variable caused the change in the dependent variable.

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In statistical testing, we say that we are testing the null hypothesis because the null hypothesis states that there will be no effect of the independent variable. If we accept the null hypothesis, then we are saying that the independent variable did not affect our dependent variable (any differences are attributed to chance).

Levels of significance

We use our statistical tests to determine whether the difference between the conditions is due to chance or error. If the difference is small enough, then we accept the null hypothesis. A large difference between the conditions tells us that we can reject our null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis. This is what is meant when we say our results are statistically significant.

How small does the difference need to be to attribute the findings to chance or error?

There are different levels of probability depending on how certain you need to be that the results are due to chance. You choose the level prior to doing the test. The most common level is $p \leq 0.05$, which means a 5% probability that the results are due to chance but that we are 95% confident that the results are real.

In other situations it may be important to be stricter. For example, when testing a new drug, you need to be very certain that any improvement is due to the drug and not chance. You might choose a significance level of $p \leq 0.01$. This means there is only a 1% probability that the results are due to chance but that we are 99% confident that the results are real.

Error types

Type I error

A type I error occurs when we reject the null hypothesis but we shouldn't have. It is a false positive. In this type of error we believe that there is a difference in our results but there isn't. If we use a significance level of 0.05 we are saying that there is a 5% chance of a type I error. We are 95% confident that we are correct in rejecting our null hypothesis.

Type II error

A type II error is the opposite. In this case we accept our null hypothesis when we should have rejected it. We can think of this as a false negative. We believed there was no difference between the conditions when there was. A type II error involves a failure to detect a change. When we choose a strict significance level, we are more likely to make a type II error. This is because we are making it more difficult to reject the null hypothesis.

A real-life application is a pregnancy test:

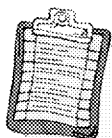
- A type I error occurs when the test says that a woman is pregnant but she is not (a false positive change but there was no change).
- A type II error occurs when the test says that a woman is not pregnant but she is (a false negative, failing to detect the change).

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Mann–Whitney U: Use for independent groups

Our experiment used independent groups, so our worked example will use the scores for two groups.



Practical investigation: an investigation into whether the acoustic similarity of words has an effect on short-term memory

Step 1: rank your results

Create a column for each of your groups and title them 'Rank'. You rank all of the words regardless of which group they are given. The smallest number of words recalled is given a rank of 1, the next smallest will be given a rank of 2, and so on.

In some cases, several participants have recalled the same number of words. In these cases, you take the average of all the ranks they would assume and then divide by the number of participants.

For example, below we have four participants who recalled four words. This means that four words were recalled, so these four participants would assume the ranks 1, 2, 3 and 4. We calculate $1 + 2 + 3 + 4 = 10$ and then divide this answer by 4 because there are four participants. This gives us the score of 2.5.

$$10 \div 4 = 2.5$$

All of our participants who recalled four words are given a score of 2.5.

When working out the next ranking, remember the ranks that have been already used. For example, if we have participants who recalled five words. Remember that we have already filled in the ranks for participants who have recalled five words fill the ranks 5, 6, 7 and 8.

$$5 + 6 + 7 + 8 = 26 \text{ and } 26 \div 4 = 6.5$$

Acoustically similar words			Acoustically dissimilar words	
Participant	Number of words recalled (max = 10)	Rank	Participant	Number of words recalled (max = 10)
1	6	10	1	8
2	4	2.5	2	9
3	5	6.5	3	7
4	4	2.5	4	9
5	6	10	5	6
6	8	15.5	6	7
7	4	2.5	7	9
8	7	13	8	5
9	4	2.5	9	10
10	5	6.5	10	5

Step 2: add up all of the ranks for your first group

Add up the ranks for acoustically similar words to get $\sum R_{a(similar)}$

$$\sum R_{a(similar)} = 10 + 2.5 + 6.5 + 2.5 + 10 + 15.5 + 2.5 + 13 + 2.5 + 6.5 = 70$$

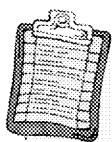
Step 3: add up all of the ranks for your second group

Add up the ranks for acoustically dissimilar words to get $\sum R_{b(dissimilar)}$

$$\sum R_{b(dissimilar)} = 15.5 + 18 + 13 + 18 + 10 + 13 + 18 + 6.5 + 20 + 6.5 = 128$$

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Practical investigation: an investigation into whether the acoustic effect on short-term memory

Step 4: work out n_a and n_b

n_a is the number of participants in your first group

$$n_a = 10$$

n_b is the number of participants in your second group

$$n_b = 10$$

Step 5: work out U_a

The provided formula for U_a is:

$$U_a = n_a n_b + \frac{n_a(n_a + 1)}{2} - \sum R_a$$

Substituting in our values, this gives us:

$$U_a = 10 \times 10 + \frac{10(10 + 1)}{2} - 71.5$$

$$U_a = 100 + \frac{10(11)}{2} - 71.5$$

$$U_a = 100 + \frac{110}{2} - 71.5$$

$$U_a = 100 + 55 - 71.5$$

$$U_a = 100 + 55 - 71.5 = 83.5$$

$$U_a = 83.5$$

Step 6: work out U_b

The provided formula for U_a is:

$$U_b = n_a n_b + \frac{n_b(n_b + 1)}{2} - \sum R_b$$

$$U_b = 10 \times 10 + \frac{10(10 + 1)}{2} - 138.5$$

$$U_b = 100 + \frac{10(11)}{2} - 138.5$$

$$U_b = 100 + \frac{110}{2} - 138.5$$

$$U_b = 100 + 55 - 138.5$$

$$U_b = 100 + 55 - 138.5 = 16.5$$

$$U_b = 16.5$$

Step 7: work out U

U is the smaller of U_a and U_b

$$\text{Our } U_a = 83.5 \text{ and } U_b = 16.5$$

$$\text{So our } U = 16.5$$

$\sum R_a$ is our answer from Step 2. It is 71.5 in group 1.

In algebra, when two letters are next to each other, you multiply them together.

$n_a n_b$ means $n_a \times n_b$

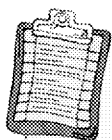
$n_a(n_a + 1)$ means $n_a \times (n_a + 1)$

$\sum R_b$ is our answer from Step 3. It is 138.5 in group 2.

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Practical investigation: an investigation into whether the acoustic effect on short-term memory

Step 8: use critical value tables

To be significant, our calculated value of U has to be **equal to or less than** the critical value. To use a critical value table, we need to know our N_a , our N_b , and whether we are doing a one-tailed or two-tailed test. From Step 4, our $N_a = 10$ and our $N_b = 10$. We have a direction, so we are doing a one-tailed test.

Our critical value for a one-tailed test at $p \leq 0.05$ is 27:

N_a	N_b										
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
$p \leq 0.05$ (one-tailed), $p \leq 0.10$ (two-tailed)											
5	4	5	6	8	9	11	12	13	15	16	18
6	5	7	8	10	12	14	16	17	19	21	23
7	6	8	11	13	15	17	19	21	24	26	28
8	8	10	13	15	18	20	23	26	28	31	33
9	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33	36	39
10	11	14	17	20	24	27	31	34	37	41	44
11	12	16	19	23	27	31	34	38	42	46	50
12	13	17	21	26	30	34	38	42	47	51	55
13	15	19	24	28	33	37	42	47	51	56	61
14	16	21	26	31	36	41	46	51	56	61	66
15	18	23	28	33	39	44	50	55	61	66	72
16	19	25	30	36	42	48	54	60	65	71	77
17	20	26	33	39	45	51	57	64	70	77	83
18	22	28	35	41	48	55	61	68	75	82	88
19	23	30	37	44	51	58	65	72	80	87	94
20	25	32	39	47	54	62	69	77	84	92	100

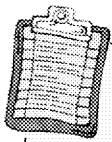
Our critical value for a one-tailed test at $p \leq 0.01$ is 19:

N_a	N_b										
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
$p \leq 0.01$ (one-tailed), $p \leq 0.02$ (two-tailed)											
5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
6	2	3	4	6	7	8	9	11	12	13	15
7	3	4	6	7	9	11	12	14	16	17	19
8	4	6	7	9	11	13	15	17	20	22	24
9	5	7	9	11	14	16	18	21	23	26	28
10	6	8	11	13	16	19	22	24	27	30	33
11	7	9	12	15	18	22	25	28	31	34	37
12	8	11	14	17	21	24	28	31	35	38	42
13	9	12	16	20	23	27	31	35	39	43	47
14	10	13	17	22	26	30	34	38	43	47	51
15	11	15	19	24	28	33	37	42	47	51	56
16	12	16	21	26	31	36	41	46	51	56	61
17	13	18	23	28	33	38	44	49	55	60	66
18	14	19	24	30	36	41	47	53	59	65	70
19	15	20	26	32	38	44	50	56	63	69	75
20	16	22	28	34	40	47	53	60	67	73	80

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Practical investigation: an investigation into whether the acoustic effect on short-term memory

To be significant, our value of U has to be **equal to or less than** the critical value

Our critical value for a one-tailed test at $p \leq 0.025$ is 23:

	N_b										
N_a	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
$p \leq 0.025$ (one-tailed), $p \leq 0.05$ (two-tailed)											
5	2	3	5	6	7	8	9	11	12	13	14
6		5	6	8	10	11	13	14	16	17	19
7			8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24
8				13	15	17	19	22	24	26	29
9					17	20	23	26	28	31	34
10						23	26	29	33	36	39
11							30	33	37	40	44
12								37	41	45	49
13									45	50	54
14										55	59
15											64
16											
17											
18											
19											
20											

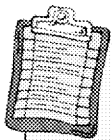
Our critical value for a one-tailed test at $p \leq 0.005$ is 16:

	N_b										
N_a	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
$p \leq 0.005$ (one-tailed), $p \leq 0.01$ (two-tailed)											
5	0	1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	7	8
6		2	3	4	5	6	7	9	10	11	12
7			4	6	7	9	10	12	13	15	16
8				7	9	11	13	15	17	18	20
9					11	13	16	18	20	22	24
10						16	18	21	24	26	29
11							21	24	27	30	33
12								27	31	34	37
13									34	38	42
14										42	46
15											51
16											
17											
18											
19											
20											

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Practical investigation: an investigation into whether the acoustic similarity of words has an effect on short-term memory

Step 9: determine significance

Look at the Mann–Whitney U critical values tables above. There are four tables with.

Write down the critical values for your test and the significance level

Critical value at $p \leq 0.05 = 27$

Critical value at $p \leq 0.025 = 23$

Critical value at $p \leq 0.01 = 19$

Critical value at $p \leq 0.005 = 16$

U value = 16.5

If your U value is **less than or equal to** the critical value, then the result is significant.

You choose your significance level; typically it will be 0.05. However, if your significance level is lower (e.g. 0.01), this is even better. You want the lowest critical value that is greater than or equal to your U value. Significance at $p \leq 0.01$ is better than significance at $p \leq 0.05$.

Our result is significant at $p \leq 0.01$ because our U value (16.5) is less than our critical value (19). This supports our experimental hypothesis that more acoustically dissimilar words are recalled than acoustically similar words.

What conclusions can we draw from our inferential statistics?

Our hypothesis was that more acoustically dissimilar words will be recalled than acoustically similar words. Our Mann–Whitney U test found our hypothesis to be significant. Significance at $p \leq 0.01$ is a high level of significance. This suggests that there were large differences in the number of words recalled in each list. Significantly more acoustically dissimilar words were recalled than acoustically similar words.

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Wilcoxon signed-rank: Use for repeated measures

If you have chosen to use a repeated measures design, you will need to use the Wilcoxon signed-rank test to determine whether the difference between the two conditions is statistically significant.

Here is an example scenario that follows the test process.

Scenario: A researcher wants to investigate whether attention to visual details is better in the morning or afternoon. Each participant is shown two identical photographs but with one photo changed. They have one minute to spot the 10 differences. Half of the participants complete this task at 10am and the other half at 2pm. A week later, with different photographs, the same participants complete the task in the afternoon condition.

Previous research has found that in the afternoon we experience a cognitive slump and are less alert and attentive compared to other times in the day. The researcher's hypothesis is that more differences will be identified in the morning condition than the afternoon condition.

Ten participants completed the study and produced the following results:

Table 1. Number of differences that participants identified in the morning and afternoon conditions.

Participant	Morning condition	Afternoon condition
1	7	5
2	6	4
3	8	3
4	5	5
5	4	7
6	8	7
7	5	4
8	10	9
9	7	5
10	9	8

Follow the steps below to learn how to conduct the Wilcoxon signed-rank test:

Step 1: Calculate the difference of each pair

Create a column and label it 'Difference'. Calculate the difference between your two conditions for each participant.

We did this by subtracting the afternoon condition from the morning condition. You could also do it the opposite way round, but make sure you use the same method for every participant.

Participant	Morning condition	Afternoon condition	Difference
1	7	5	2
2	6	4	2
3	8	3	5
4	5	5	0
5	4	7	-3
6	8	7	1
7	5	4	1
8	10	9	1
9	7	5	2
10	9	8	1

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Step 2: Rank the differences

Create a new column in your table and title it 'Rank'. If any of your differences are

Ignore the signs and look for the smallest difference (other than 0) and give a rank of 1, the next difference a rank of 2, and so on.

If some of your differences are the same, then work out the ranks they would assign if they were different and then average these numbers.

In the data below we have four differences of 1. These scores would assume the ranks of 1, 2, 3 and 4. We work out $1 + 2 + 3 + 4 = 10$ and then divide this answer by the number of 1s, so $10 \div 4 = 2.5$. A rank of 2.5 is given to all the differences of 1.

We also have three differences of 2. Remember that 1 is taking up the ranks of 1, 2 and 3, so the next highest so will take up the rank of 5.

There are three differences of 2, so this will be ranks 5, 6 and 7.

We work out the rank by working out $5 + 6 + 7 = 18$ and then dividing this by the number of 2s, so $18 \div 3 = 6$. A rank of 6 is given to all the differences of 2.

Participant	Morning condition	Afternoon condition	Difference
1	7	5	2
2	6	4	2
3	8	3	5
4	5	5	0
5	4	7	-3
6	8	7	1
7	5	4	1
8	10	9	1
9	7	5	2
10	9	8	1

Step 3: Add together all the ranks that belong to positive scores

Positive scores: $6 + 6 + 9 + 2.5 + 2.5 + 2.5 + 6 + 2.5 = 37$

Step 4: Add together all the ranks that belong to negative scores

Negative scores: 8

Step 5: Find the value of W (W stands for Wilcoxon)

The smaller answer to Step 3 and Step 4 is the value of W.

$W = 8$

Step 6: Find the value of N

Our value for N is the number of differences (we ignore any that gave us a difference of 0).

There are nine differences (because we omitted one).

$N = 9$

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Step 7: Find the critical value

Look at the critical Wilcoxon values.

<i>n</i>	Level of significance for a one-tailed test			
	0.05	0.025	0.01	
	Levels of significance for a two-tailed test			
	0.1	0.05	0.02	
N=5	0	-	-	Use your
6	2	0	-	
7	3	2	0	
8	5	3	1	
9	8	5	3	
10	11	8	5	
11	13	10	7	
12	17	13	9	

For most studies, it is important that they are significant at a level of 0.05. Some need to be significant at a level of 0.01 because it is very important that the result reduces the odds of false positives (detecting a difference when there is no difference).

Step 8: Determine significance

We use the table above and our *W* value to determine whether our finding is significant.

We have a directional hypothesis so we use a one-tailed test. (If you have a non-directional hypothesis, you use a two-tailed test.)

Looking at the table above for a one-tailed test:

Critical value at $p \leq 0.05 = 8$

Critical value at $p \leq 0.025 = 5$

Critical value at $p \leq 0.01 = 3$

W value = 8

You choose your significance level; typically it will be 0.05. However, if your study (e.g. 0.01) this is even better. If your *W* value is **less than or equal to** the critical value, the result is significant.

You want the lowest critical value that your result is still significant for. Significant at $p \leq 0.05$.

Our result is significant at $p \leq 0.05$ because our *W* value (8) is equal to our critical value. This supports our experimental hypothesis that more differences will be identified in the afternoon condition.

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Discussing your study and writing it up

Evaluating your study

Every researcher who publishes their study in a scientific journal must also write an evaluation of their study. They consider what they have done well and poorly, and how they can improve.

Here are some questions that you should ask yourself:

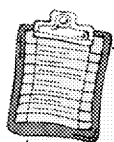
- Can my findings be generalised to the population?
- Is my study valid?
- Are my findings reliable?
- Is my study ethical?
- Can my findings be applied to other cultures?
- Does my study use a natural or artificial setting?
- Can my study tell us about real life?
- What applications does my study have?

You don't need to ask all these questions but you should consider the areas your study is strong in and the areas that need improvement.

Strengths and weaknesses of our study

From asking yourself the questions above, you should be able to identify strengths and weaknesses of your study design.

Below is an example of how you can use questioning to write your evaluation.



Practical investigation: an investigation into whether the acoustic similarity of word lists has an effect on short-term memory

Is my study ethical? No.

Why is my study unethical? The study lacks informed consent because participants were not told the true nature of the word lists.

Why is this a problem? The participants did not have all the information needed to make a decision about whether they wanted to participate. They may have felt uncomfortable when they found out the true nature of the study afterwards.

The write up:

One weakness of the study is that informed consent was not obtained from the participants. Participants were not told about the true nature of the word lists, that they were given a similar-sounding word list or a dissimilar-sounding word list, and that the researcher was interested in the performance on the two lists. Although consent was obtained, participants did not have all the information to make an informed decision about their choice to participate. They may have felt discomfort when they found out this information had been withheld from them.

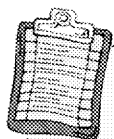
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Improvements

Looking at the weaknesses you have identified is one way of seeing which areas you can improve on.

Not all weaknesses are easy or even possible to improve on. For example, one weakness of experiments is that the environment is artificial and, therefore, not representative of the real world. It is often not easy to improve this because it is a core feature of the study.



Practical investigation: an investigation into whether the acoustic effect on short-term memory

One weakness of the study was that validity may have been threatened because time of day was not controlled for. Participants who completed the experiment late in the day may have been more fatigued, which could alter their ability to concentrate and attend to the stimuli. Participants who completed the study during the late afternoon may not have performed as well as those who completed the study earlier in the day. One possible improvement would be to conduct the experiment during the morning. If all participants complete the experiment during the morning, it would mean that the participants' results can be safely compared.

Sections of a scientific report

Journal articles must be reported in a specific manner and are often split up into sections.

Abstract

The abstract is a short summary of the research which includes key features such as the hypothesis was and whether the findings supported this hypothesis. The abstract allows researchers to see if they want to read the whole article.

Introduction

The introduction is arguably one of the most important sections of the whole article. In the introduction, the researcher discusses the reason for deciding to conduct their research. This includes what is known about the research, what is yet to be known and how the researcher aims to remedy this. The introduction also states the aims and hypothesis of the researcher.

Method

This section discusses how the researcher conducted the research. The method section describes the procedure as the idea is that another researcher could repeat the experiment exactly using the same method. It is usually split up into:

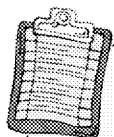
- **Participants:** Details of how many participants, the distribution of their gender, the age range, the population they were drawn from and the method of selection, and whether they are paid to take part in the study. This section will also state if there were any specific requirements for the study that asks participants to recall small details from a picture may require participants to have perfect vision.
- **Materials:** This gives details of any materials or equipment used in the study. If the study used word lists, then it will include information about which words were used and how they were selected. If the design involved a computerised task, it may include details about the computer, the abilities and the size and resolution of the monitor screen.
- **Design:** The experimental design is briefly described, such as whether the study used a between-subjects design, independent groups design or matched-pairs design. This section also states how the participants were formed into their conditions.
- **Procedure:** A detailed description of what instructions were given to participants, how the experiment was conducted, taken to reduce order effects and how long the participants had to complete the task.

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Results

The results section first begins with describing the data using descriptive statistics scores. It then moves on to show the results of any statistical or qualitative analysis and what their statistical significance is. This section is very fact based as the researcher interprets the results.



Practical investigation: an investigation into whether the acoustic similarity effect on short-term memory

Here is our write-up of the results:

A Mann–Whitney U test was performed. The calculated value of the test was 19, which is less than the critical value of 19 for a one-tailed test at $p \leq 0.01$. The result is significant and supports the alternative hypothesis, which states that a greater number of acoustically dissimilar words are recalled than acoustically similar words.

You can change the underlined words to write your own results section.

Discussion

In the discussion section, the researcher links the statistical findings to the research question and whether they support or contradict the predictions of their study. The results are compared to previous research that was identified in the introduction section and whether these new results support or contradict the previous research. In the discussion section, the researcher also considers the implications of the findings and what future work still needs to be done on this topic.

To write the discussion section, answer these questions (in this order!):

- Did the results support your hypothesis?
- How do your findings relate to previous research?
- Was your study an appropriate test for your hypothesis?
- Did you encounter any methodological problems?
- If your data does not support your hypothesis, does it support an alternative hypothesis?
- What are the implications of your findings?
- What future work still needs to be done on this topic?

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* A Level exam-style questions

Q1. *Dyslexia is a reading disorder that is associated with a poor working memory. People with dyslexia have problems associating letters to the sound they produce and this affects their reading speed and difficulties reading certain words. They struggle to hold short-term information in their heads because of their poor auditory working memory. Recent interventions for dyslexia have been based on working memory theory.*

Discuss – using concepts, theories and/or research from cognitive psychology – the society of whether knowledge of working memory can inform the treatment of dyslexia. You must make reference to the context in your answer. (8 marks)

Q2. *Claire was talking to her friend on the phone when a man ran out of a store and she was surprised and angry, Claire was unharmed and thought no more about it. She was contacted by the police to give an eyewitness statement of the notorious theft. Claire found it difficult to recall details about the man.*

Discuss how the multi-store model of memory explains how memories are formed in an eyewitness situation. You must make reference to context in your answer. (8 marks)

Q3. Describe episodic memory. (4 marks)

Q4. Evaluate whether research into the reconstructive nature of memory has implications for memory in real life. (8 marks)

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Chapter 1

Task 1.1. Suggested answers:

Generalisability is the extent to which findings can be applied to the population that the study is about, not just the participants. Baddeley's study has good/~~poor~~ generalisability because... he used a large sample so that individual differences in memory would be accounted for. Memory is a universal characteristic that all humans have. Therefore, very large samples are not needed because individual differences are low, which makes it more likely that the findings were due to the manipulation of the independent variable.

Internal validity is the extent to which the findings are the result of manipulating the independent variable. Baddeley's study has good/~~poor~~ internal validity because... Baddeley used a number of control variables that might influence the results. For example, the participants recalled word lists in a random order which minimises the chance that some words were easier or harder to recall for some participants. Therefore, it is more likely that the findings were due to the manipulation of the independent variable.

Ecological validity is the extent to which the findings can be generalised to real life. Baddeley's study has poor ecological validity because... remembering the order of word lists is unlike our uses for memory in real life. We need to remember individual words (e.g. shopping lists) but we very rarely have to remember the order of words presented. This makes it difficult to generalise Baddeley's findings to real life.

Check your understanding!

Q1. Working memory is the type of memory used to hold and manipulate information, and to perform mental processes (1). For example, if doing a complicated sum you may separate the sum into smaller parts and hold them in order to add the results later (1).

1 mark for basic definition

1 mark for example or elaboration

Q2. The episodic buffer allows information to be integrated from multiple sources of information. For example, while we could only recall five words alone, we could recall 16 words in a sentence. This is because short-term and long-term information is integrated, which would require the use of an episodic buffer.

1 mark for basic definition

2 marks for examples and elaboration

Q3. The working memory model argues that the limited capacity of the components means that tasks that use the same components without impairing performance (1). Additional components, then their performance should be unimpaired as this does not affect the capacity of the components (1).

1 mark for using the same component

1 mark for using different components

Could also talk about autonomous tasks instead

Q4. Visual memory can be assessed using the visual patterns task which involves showing a grid of squares of size that are half shaded in and requiring them to fill in the correct squares on a blank grid. The capacity is said to be the matrix size before errors begin to occur (1). Spatial memory can be assessed using the spatial span task, which involves the experimenter laying out blocks on a desk and tapping them in a particular order. Participants must repeat the pattern in a particular order, and spatial span is how many blocks they can remember before making mistakes (1).

1 mark per each definition

1 mark per explanation of the actual measure; that is, how this type of memory is measured

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Exam-style questions

Q.	Answer
Q1.	<p>AO2 (1 mark), AO3 (2 marks)</p> <p>One mark is awarded for identifying the problem (AO2). Two marks are awarded for justification of the problem (AO3).</p> <p>For example: Group 1 did much worse on their tasks because both tasks used the same working memory resources (1). The visual tasks used the visuospatial sketch pad, whereas the verbal tasks used the phonological loop. When group 1 tried to do two visual tasks at the same time, this exceeded the capacity of the visuospatial sketch pad (1).</p> <p>Credit other appropriate points</p>
Q2.	<p>AO1 (3 marks)</p> <p>A mark is awarded to each point relating to dual tasks. Together, the points should total 3 marks. For example: In a dual task, participants complete two tasks at the same time and their performance is unaffected, then it is said that the two components belong to different working memory components (1). If the performance on the tasks is affected, this suggests they belong to the same working memory component because they are competing for the same resources (1). The visual tasks used the visuospatial sketch pad, whereas the verbal tasks used the phonological loop.</p> <p>Credit other appropriate points</p>
Q3.	<p>AO2 (1 mark), AO3 (2 marks)</p> <p>One mark is awarded for identifying the problem (AO2). Two marks are awarded for justification of the problem (AO3).</p> <p>For example: Individuals with dyslexia have poor or inefficient working memory (1). Tommy takes longer to read than his classmates because he encodes phonological information inefficiently (1). Tommy struggles to work out the meaning of the sentence because it involves holding too much information at one time, which requires greater working memory (1).</p> <p>Credit other appropriate points</p>

Chapter 2

Consider!

What does this study tell us about the duration in short-term memory?

The Peterson and Peterson study suggests that short-term memory is very short without something to interrupt rehearsal, we already start to transfer the information into our long-term memory. If rehearsal is prevented, then we begin to forget after three seconds.

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Task 2.1.

	Duration	Capacity
The sensory register	Rapid decay 200 milliseconds to a few seconds	Large capacity but we cannot attend to much information Sperling (1960) iconic memory four or five items but actually rapid decay (row presentation)
The short-term store	Peterson and Peterson (1959): duration very short; if no rehearsal then 90% information remembered after three seconds	Miller (1959) 'the magic number 7 ± 2 ' Chunking increases the amount of information but larger chunks means fewer chunks
The long-term store	Theoretically, forever, e.g. Bahrick et al. (1975), but in reality may not be able to recall	Theoretically infinite

Based on the evidence above, the multi-store model is...
shown to have both some similarities and some differences. The capacities of the sensory appear to be similar. Additionally, there is some overlap, with the short-term store and long-term store. Information can be transferred from the short-term store to the long-term store acoustically and visually, although they differ in their primary form of encoding. The long-term store is generally different; however, there is clearly some overlap. One possible modification is the addition of a rehearsal loop between the short-term and long-term stores.

Check your understanding!

Q1. HM demonstrated an intact short-term memory but a difficulty in forming long-term memories. This suggests that there are separate short-term and long-term stores; otherwise both areas would be affected. Additionally, as he had brain surgery that removed some sections of his brain and the memory, it is also likely that the physical locations of the short-term and long-term stores are different.

Marks for linking HM to the multi-store model (1) and explaining this link (2)

Q2. Conrad (1964) presented a list of six consonants for less than a second and asked participants to repeat them. They found participants confused consonants with ones that sounded similar while participants were fine with consonants that looked similar but sounded different. This suggests that short-term memory is encoded acoustically rather than visually (1).

Marks for description of appropriate study; could include aim, method, findings or conclusion (1)

Q3. IV: The list participants were presented with (acoustically similar, acoustically dissimilar, semantically similar, semantically dissimilar)

DV: Number of words recalled in the list

1 mark each correct

Q4. Simon has many pre-existing long-term memories of tennis from watching and playing tennis (1). This suggests that his elaborative processing will be deeper as he will make more connections with his long-term memories, making them more likely to be recalled at a later date (1). For example, he might recall a score being 6-4 for the first set because he had the same score playing himself a few weeks ago, or an arbitrary score with no connections, making it harder to recall (1).

Marks for direct application of elaborative rehearsal to the situation, use of example (1)

Q5. Brain-damaged patients are unlikely to be able to give informed consent (1). For example, they could never reach a true understanding that he was participating in research as they were in a short space of time (1). Although carers or family members may provide consent, it is not clear whether the patient would truly want to participate in the experiment as they have no understanding of it (1).

1 mark for identifying a relevant ethical issue and 2 marks for linking this to brain-damaged patients (3)

Q6. We have a limited capacity in our sensory memory; for example, Sperling (1960) experiment found that participants could remember four or five out of 12 visual items (1). However, when the participants were cued about which row to recall and participants tended to recall more items. This suggests that we remember more information in our sensory memory but that it is not available for long-term storage (1). Miller (1956) argued that we remember 7 ± 2 items' worth of information in our short-term memory. This information can be 'chunked' to increase capacity and multiple items can be remembered as a single unit compared to L A S T (1). However, we cannot have an unlimited amount of information in our short-term memory; we found that we can remember fewer large chunks than small chunks (1). The capacity of short-term memory is theoretically infinite; however, this is difficult to test as we often do not have access to our long-term memory at once (1).

Marks for identifying each memory store (3) and for identifying the capacity of each store (3)

Exam-style questions

Q.	Answer
Q1.	<p>AO2 (1 mark), AO3 (2 marks)</p> <p>One mark is awarded for identifying the problem (AO2). Two marks are awarded for justification of the problem (AO3).</p> <p>For example: Miller et al. (1956) found that the average digit span was seven give or take two. There are 11 digits in a mobile number, which means that Katie is unlikely to be able to remember all 11 digits (1). With insufficient short-term memory capacity, the extra items will be forgotten (1). Credit other appropriate points</p>
Q2.	<p>AO1 (3 marks)</p> <p>A mark is awarded to each point relating to storage capacity. Together, the points should add up to a total of 3 marks.</p> <p>For example: Research has found that participants can store four or five visual items in the sensory register (1). In contrast, Miller (1956) found that we could store 7 ± 2 digits, which is a smaller capacity than the sensory register (1). Long-term memory has potentially unlimited capacity (1). It is difficult to prove experimentally (1). Credit other appropriate points</p>
Q3.	<p>AO1 (4 marks), AO3 (4 marks)</p> <p>AO1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brain-damaged patients are used in psychology to learn about the function of the brain There are ethical issues with using brain-damaged patients, such as the need for informed consent and difficulties in withdrawing from the research Brain-damaged patients are extremely vulnerable individuals, and, therefore, extra care should be applied before using them as research subjects Other ways of studying the brain should be considered, such as using healthy individuals, neuroimaging techniques or dissecting brains after death There are practical issues, and the extent of damage can greatly restrict what brain-damaged individuals can complete HM was unable to give informed consent HM was one of the most studied individuals in psychology, which may have compromised the validity of the research due to lack of privacy <p>AO3:</p> <p>For the use of brain-damaged patients in psychological research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When questioned, HM appeared to have a positive attitude towards the research, which was given as an indication that he consented Research can gain new insights about the normal working brain by studying brain-damaged individuals For example, research on HM highlighted the importance of the hippocampus in memory, which was later confirmed by other case studies and neuroimaging evidence

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Studies of brain-damaged individuals are usually case studies, which provide a holistic understanding of the topic <p>Against the use of brain-damaged patients in psychological research:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The pattern of the brain damage and the patient's response to the damage, which limits our ability to generalise to other populations The way a brain behaves when it is damaged does not necessarily provide a picture of how it behaves when it is healthy There are ethical issues such as inability to give informed consent to the research. The patient cannot understand or remember the research aims. Additionally, the patient is overly invested in the patient and fail to recognise when research is damaging or prognosis outcomes. Brain-damaged patients may prefer to spend their lives in a way that reflects their remaining abilities, rather than as research subjects It is not always possible to establish whether the brains of these patients were damaged by an incident that caused the brain damage <p>Credit other appropriate points</p>
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Level	Mark	Descriptor
AO1 (4 marks), AO3 (4 marks)		
Candidates should focus equally on knowledge and their evaluation/conclusion.		
Level 0	0	No creditworthy material
Level 1	1–2 marks	Candidate shows limited knowledge and understanding. A generic conclusion may be present. Evidence supports the conclusion. There is a partial attempt to answer the question. (AO3)
Level 2	3–4 marks	Candidate shows largely accurate knowledge and understanding. Argument uses statement rather than logical chains of reasoning. Evidence for the argument using generally accurate factual details. (AO3)
Level 3	5–6 marks	Candidate shows accurate knowledge and understanding. Arguments show mostly sound reasoning. Reasoning leads to a conclusion. The answer shows knowledge of different arguments. Not all arguments are balanced. (AO3)
Level 4	7–8 marks	Candidate shows accurate and comprehensive knowledge and understanding. The evaluation is logical and shows sound reasoning. The answer shows comprehensive knowledge of different arguments and a balanced conclusion. (AO3)

Chapter 3

Task 3.1.

Type of long-term memory	Example
Episodic	'I know that I rode my bike 10 miles in the pouring rain'
Semantic	'I know that the triangle frame on a bike is designed to be strong'
Procedural	'I know how to ride a bike'

Type of long-term memory	Example
Episodic	'I know that I played <i>Für Elise</i> in my piano lesson last year'
Semantic	'I know that a piano has 88 keys'
Procedural	'I know how to play a piano'

Type of long-term memory	Example
Episodic	'I know that I first tied my shoes when I was five years old'
Semantic	'I know that shoe laces have stiff ends designed so they can be threaded through eyelets'
Procedural	'I know how to tie my shoes'

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Check your understanding!

- Q1.** Declarative memory is formed memories of facts, including semantic and episodic memory to recall (1). In contrast, procedural memory focuses on skill-based memories and can

1 mark per definition

- Q2.** Episodic memory is long-term memory to do with our past events, which often include the event occurred (1). Semantic memory is formed of our knowledge and understanding. Procedural memory is the memory of how we form actions and is different from the unconscious (1).

1 mark per definition

- Q3.** Fitts (1954) proposed that there were three stages to learning new skills. Applied to The cognitive phase: The person learns each separate stage of riding a bike, and may such as peddling at different speeds and using the brakes. Attention is required at e

The associative phase: The person knows each of the actions involved in riding a bike

The autonomous phase: The person can ride a bike without thinking about it; the skill is now automatic.

1 mark per each stage

- Q4.** Flashbulb memories are a type of episodic memory in which vivid memories are formed of a 'snapshot' in time (1). These are often of strong events such as the 9/11 attacks, which people recall details very well even after a long period of time. (1) One explanation for the accuracy of flashbulb memories is that they are often retold compared to normal memories. (1)

1 mark for basic definition

2 marks for further detail and/or examples

- Q5.** Schemata are mental structures in the brain that organise conceptual information (1). *butterfly* may involve the information that it is an insect, has large wings and is often yellow. When the word 'butterfly' activates the schema which retrieves all of this information and, likewise, when the word 'butterfly' (1).

Marks for definition, usefulness, how they work, and examples

- Q6.** Multitasking involves doing two tasks at the same time without performance impairment (1). Strayer (1976) looked at whether you could train participants to be able to multitask successfully and comprehend short stories and also dictate words they heard aloud, and found that participants could do both tasks together as well as they could alone (1). This suggests that multitasking is a skill that can be developed with considerable practice (1). However, Strayer and Johnston (2001) used braking distance as a measure of performance and found that both hand-held and hands-free mobile phone use impaired performance even when the driver was experienced (1).

Marks for definition of multitasking / divided attention, autonomic behaviour, impact (e.g. driving)

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Exam-style questions

Q.	Answer
Q1.	<p>AO1 (3 marks)</p> <p>A mark is awarded to each point relating to semantic memory. Together, the points form a coherent description worth up to 3 marks.</p> <p>For example: Semantic memories are our memories of facts, definitions and concepts (1). Semantic memories are important for understanding our world and language; without them, words would be meaningless. Unlike episodic memories, semantic memories are independent of the time and place of the event (1).</p> <p>Credit other appropriate points</p>
Q2.	<p>AO1 (4 mark), AO2 (4 marks)</p> <p>AO1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tulving (1972) formed a distinction between two types of long-term memory • Episodic memories are our memories of past events • Episodic memories are important for our identity; they make up who we are • Semantic memories are our memories of facts and our knowledge about the world • Semantic memories are needed to function easily; for example, to read and understand text • Episodic memories contain the time and context in which they occurred; in semantic memories, the information is stored separately from this information • Initially, semantic memories have time and context attached to them, but over time, this information is lost • Episodic and semantic memories are thought to be stored in different areas of the brain <p>AO2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David can recall semantic memories (he knows where countries are on a map and what everyday objects are) • His long-term memory for episodic memories has been damaged (he cannot remember his divorce or burning his hand) • He cannot form new memories, which suggests he cannot transfer information from short-term memory – he cannot form semantic or episodic memories • He will have problems doing everyday tasks because he will not be able to remember what he is doing, e.g. he will forget the conversation he just had or what comes next when he is cooking • He will still be able to understand his environment because he has retained semantic memories <p>Credit other appropriate points</p>

Level	Mark	Descriptor
AO1 (4 marks), AO2 (4 marks)		
Candidates should focus equally on knowledge and understanding and application to the context.		
Level 0	0	No creditworthy material
Level 1	1–2 marks	Candidate shows limited knowledge and understanding of the context. Makes very limited or no mention of relevant evidence from the context. (AO2)
Level 2	3–4 marks	Candidate shows largely accurate knowledge and understanding of the context. Discussion is not fully developed, and is not balanced or does not give appropriate importance to the arguments. Arguments are infrequently supported by relevant evidence from the context. (AO2)
Level 3	5–6 marks	Candidate shows accurate knowledge and understanding of the context. Discussion shows mostly sound reasoning. The answer is supported by relevant arguments but the discussion may not be balanced or does not give appropriate importance to the arguments. The discussion is supported by relevant evidence from the context. (AO2)
Level 4	7–8 marks	Candidate shows accurate and comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the context. The discussion is logical and balanced, and shows sound reasoning. The discussion is supported by comprehensive knowledge of different arguments which are supported by relevant evidence from the context. (AO2)

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Chapter 4

Consider!

How similar is this story to stories that his participants may have read before? How does it differ?

The War of the Ghosts is very different from the English stories that the participants would have read. The prose is less connected, which makes it difficult to understand how parts of the story are connected to another. There are unusual elements such as the realisation that the warriors were ghosts and that they went to hunt seals.

This reduces the ecological validity of the study because participants would find the story easier to understand and remember than they would an English story.

Consider!

What information might be stored in the 'Hitler' schema?

Hitler schema: leader of the Nazi party, dictator of Germany, active during the 1930s–1940s, instigated the Holocaust and responsible for the death of millions (Jews, Poles, Soviet prisoners of war, homosexuals, disabled people, gypsies and more), believed in racial hygiene, gave impressive speeches.

Consider!

Why might the researchers decide to show each participant only one set of photos?

Seeing more than one photo of a scene could lead to the participants' memories becoming confused as to which object belongs to which photograph.

Task 4.1.

You may have falsely remembered the word 'angry' because all of the words are associated with the scene. The word was not actually present.

Task 4.2.

Example story: Two men heard noises and thought that the sounds might be coming from a canoe. One man arrived in a canoe and asked the men to join their war party. One man said that he did not want to join. The other man said that they had spare arrows in the canoe. The man said that he did not want to join. The other man suggested that the other man go with them. The other man joined the warriors and they went to a town. Many people were killed. The man realised he had been shot and he died.

Task 4.3.

Knowledge that might be stored in a restaurant schema: serves food, physical building, menu, reservation, shown to a table, choose from menu, waiter or waitress takes order and brings food, pays bill, leaving a tip

Task 4.4.

Common objects include: fridge, freezer, food, stove, oven, microwave, knives, cutlery, chairs, tables, pans, kettle, toaster, coffee machine, cupboards, drawers, crockery, glasses, sink, dish rack

Task 4.5.

Example answer:

- 1) Participants were shown only one photo of each scene – this prevents them from comparing photos of each photo
- 2) How long the image was shown for – the amount of time the participant has to study the image and how well it is recalled

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Task 4.6.

Contemporary study: Reconstruction from memory in naturalistic environments	
Aim	Investigate the effects of prior knowledge (schemata) in recalling objects
Method	<p>Prior expectations test: Participants asked to name the objects they saw in different scenes (kitchen, office, dining room, hotel room and urban scene). The number of objects was counted.</p> <p>Perceptual judgements test: Participants were asked to write down a list of objects seen in a set of photographs. Twenty-five photographs were used, with five from each scene. Prior expectations and perceptual judgements were used as a baseline for comparison.</p> <p>Memory condition: Forty-nine participants who had not taken part in the other two tests were used in the condition. Ten photographs were used – two from each scene set of five. Participants were shown each photo for two or 10 seconds before being asked to recall the objects. The objects and the order of recall were recorded.</p>
Findings and Conclusions	<p>Low-probability items were more likely to be recalled when not in the scene, i.e. overall error rate 9% high probability, 18% low probability</p> <p>Few false memories occur for objects that are not in the scene, but a few false memories occur without a tablecloth</p> <p>Objects that are consistent with the room schema are recalled well</p> <p>Objects that are inconsistent with the room schema are recalled well</p> <p>Participants can identify unusual items that the people do not expect to see</p> <p>Episodic memory was used in addition to semantic memory; 25% more items recalled</p>
Evaluation	<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encouraged ecological validity within memory research Used naturalistic settings over experimentally manipulated settings Has real-life applications: Witnesses may notice salient details that do not fit the schema <p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used photographs rather than taking participants to a real room May not tell us about memory in real life

Check your understanding!

Q1. Participants heard a Native American folk tale, called The War of the Ghosts, twice (1). After an interval of 15 minutes, and then again at different intervals (1). Bartlett found that the stories were not accurate but showed distortion in a number of different ways (1). For example, the story was simplified, which Bartlett termed 'levelling' (1).

4 marks for description of the repeated reproduction study, including specific details of the method of testing recall

Q2. One error that Bartlett identified was levelling (1). Participants lost details about the story and made it more straightforward (1). After several recalls, the story had been reduced to a tale of a battle between two tribes (1).

1 mark for identification of a type of memory error
2 marks for description of that error

Q3. The War of the Ghosts study has poor ecological validity (1). The Native American folk tale is a different style from English stories, used unusual language and had unfamiliar elements (1). The errors participants made were attempts to make it sound more like an English story (1). The story was simplified, which Bartlett termed 'levelling' (1).

1 mark for commenting on the ecological validity of the study
2 marks for elaboration/evidence/examples that support this

Q4. Sulvin and Dooling (1974) gave participants a story about a brutal dictator and named him Martin or Adolf Hitler (1). After a short or long interval, participants were given a recall sentence 'He hated the Jews particularly and so persecuted them' (1). They found that participants who had been told the story was about Hitler falsely recognised the sentence as being part of the story (1). The story activated a Hitler schema but that recall is only affected when there has been a schema (1).

4 marks describing a study that supports the effects of schema on recall: material to be recalled and any results/conclusions

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Q5. One strength of Steyvers and Hemmer's (2012) methodology is that they used naturalistic scenes they could study the types of memory error and the error frequency. This gives the study higher ecological validity and a greater ability to generalise the findings.

1 mark for identification of a relevant strength

2 marks for elaboration and examples of the strength

Exam-style questions

Q.	Answer
Q1.	<p>AO1 (2 marks), AO3 (2 marks)</p> <p>One mark for each weakness identified (2 AO1) One mark for the justification of the identified weakness (2 AO3)</p> <p>For example: Bartlett (1932) gave participants vague instructions which may have encouraged errors (1). His finding of high rates of memory distortion may actually be the result of a reconstructive process (1). Bartlett did not have a consistent system for coding the errors his participants showed, which may affect the accuracy of his findings because participants may be more or less prone to the errors suggested (1).</p> <p>Credit other appropriate points</p>
Q2.	<p>AO1 (3 marks)</p> <p>A mark is awarded to each point relating to schemata. Together, the points should total a description worth up to 3 marks.</p> <p>For example: Schemata are our mental representations of objects and events (1). Bartlett argued that when we are missing information from our memories, we use schemata to fill in the gaps (1). Our reconstructions are based on our prior knowledge, which does not always translate to reality (1).</p> <p>Credit other appropriate points</p>
Q3.	<p>AO1 (4 marks), AO3 (4 marks) [Maximum of 2 marks for 'For' and 2 marks for 'Against']</p> <p>This mark scheme corresponds to using the contemporary study discussed in this question (Steyvers and Hemmer, 2012). The contemporary studies by Schmolck et al. (2006) and Hernández-Gil (2012) are alternatives that could be used to answer this question.</p> <p>Steyvers and Hemmer (2012)</p> <p>AO1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researching how prior knowledge (schemata) influences recall of episodic memory • A response to Brewer and Treyens' (1981) study and other studies that experiment with naturalistic scenes • Compared prior expectations (naming objects for a scene) and perceptual judgments (what could be seen in photographs) with actual recall rates • Used photographs of five scenes • Found that participants recalled schemata consistent objects well • Found that schemata inconsistent objects were salient and, therefore, recalled better <p>AO3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved ecological validity by using naturalistic, non-manipulated, scenes • Use of photographs limits ecological validity: memory for photographs may not be the same as memory for real-life scenes • High levels of control, and participants experienced standardised conditions, which allows for comparison between participants • Application: Eyewitness testimony – schemata can allow eyewitnesses to guess what they saw and identify unusual details that do not match their schemata <p>Credit other appropriate points</p>

Chapter 5

Task 5.1.

Level	Mark	Descriptor
AO1 (4 marks), AO3 (4 marks)		
Candidates should focus equally on knowledge and their evaluation/conclusion.		
Level 0	0	No creditworthy material
Level 1	1–2 marks	Candidate shows limited knowledge and understanding (AO1). A generic conclusion may be present. Evidence supporting the conclusion is limited. There is a partial attempt to answer the question. (AO3)
Level 2	3–4 marks	Candidate shows largely accurate knowledge and understanding (AO1). Argument uses statement rather than logical chains of reasoning. The argument uses generally accurate factual details. A short conclusion is present.
Level 3	5–6 marks	Candidate shows accurate knowledge and understanding (AO1). Arguments show mostly sound reasoning. Reasoning leads to a conclusion. The answer shows knowledge of different arguments but is not balanced. (AO3)
Level 4	7–8 marks	Candidate shows accurate and comprehensive knowledge and understanding (AO1). The evaluation is logical and shows sound reasoning. The conclusion shows knowledge of different arguments and forms a balanced conclusion.

Laboratory experiment

Definition:

A laboratory experiment is a carefully controlled study that manipulates the independent variable and measures the dependent variable.

Advantage:

Replicable

Write it fully:

One of the advantages of a laboratory experiment is that it is replicable. Precisely operationalising the variables and standardising the experiment means that the experiment can be repeated under the same conditions. This is beneficial as it allows the researcher to check the reliability of the results or other researchers to investigate the reliability of the results.

Disadvantage:

Operationalisation

Write it fully:

A laboratory experiment is carefully operationalised to measure the effect of the IV; however, the operationalisation may not be valid as what they are measuring is used in real life. For example, in Milgram's study, it is doubtful that in real life an average citizen would ever obey orders from an authority figure. Demonstrations of obedience are shown by less extreme actions, making it difficult to generalise the results to real life.

Field experiment

Definition:

A field experiment is an experiment that manipulates the independent variable but the dependent variable is measured in natural settings rather than artificial settings.

Advantage:

Higher mundane realism

Write it fully:

A field experiment occurs in natural settings, which makes it more ecologically valid than laboratory studies. Since findings are made in their environment, findings that are produced in natural settings are more relevant and applicable to real life. For example, research on shopping lists is more likely to provide insight about real life than having someone sit in a laboratory and memorise a list.

Disadvantage:

Ethical implications

Write it fully:

Participants in field studies may be unaware they are taking part, which raises serious ethical issues. Participants do not consent to take part as they may not want to take part and would not be asked. In addition, those who do not know they are taking part may withdraw from the study. Due to the manipulation of IVs, participants may be in situations they are uncomfortable with.

If participants discover that they are being studied, they may feel embarrassed, which has a wider implication of damaging reputation in the future.

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Task 5.2.

Possible extraneous factors:

- How familiar they are with the topic – could be controlled for by allowing them to practice with or rating for familiarity and controlling for the difference in analysis
- How much experience they have with giving presentations – rating for experience or using all similarly experienced individuals
- The age, gender, status, etc. of the audience, e.g. whether they are a group of experienced individuals or having the same audience and same information about the audience each time

Task 5.3.

Hot:

Mean = 66.3

Median = 63.5

Mode = 63

Range = 29

Cold:

Mean = 60.4

Median = 58.5

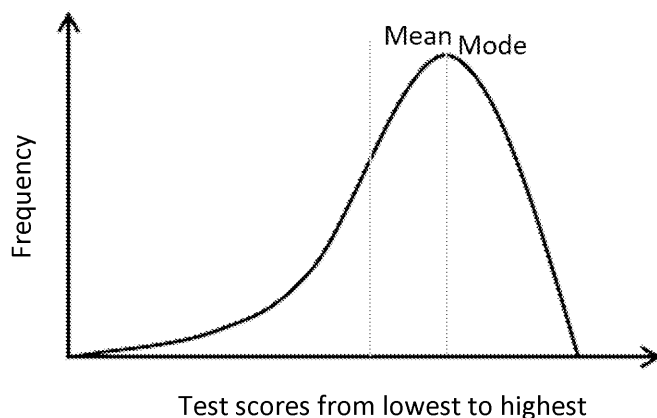
Mode = 60

Range = 39.0

The mean of the cold room was slightly lower (60.4 vs 66.3) than the mean of the hot room, which encourages faster completion. However, the range is much greater in the cold room (39.0 vs 29.0), so the mean in the cold room has been affected by outliers.

Task 5.4.

- Skewed distribution curve (to the right)
- The majority of test scores tend to be higher
- and d) see below



- The mode is the most common and so it forms the peak as that represents the highest frequency; this will be affected by the fact that the majority of values are higher and so the distribution is skewed to the right.

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A-Level exam-style questions

Q.	Answer
Q1.	<p>AO1 (4 marks), AO2 (4 marks)</p> <p>AO1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working memory (Baddeley and Hitch, 1974) is our capacity to hold and manipulate information in our short-term memory Working memory is divided into a number of different stores, including a phonological loop that deals with sound-based information Individuals differ in their working memory abilities, and poorer working memory is associated with poorer performance in memory tests and difficulties in everyday life Dyslexics have poorer or inefficient working memory Dyslexics code phonological information ineffectively, which makes it difficult to perform phonological tasks, such as blending sounds to make words and reading aloud <p>AO2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A heavy working memory load in the classroom can be reduced by splitting information concisely and using checklists to track what the child needs to do, reducing demands on their working memory and allows them to avoid losing track of a multi-step task. Classroom strategies can target phonological working memory problems; for example, using blending skills in small groups. Blending is difficult for dyslexic children due to holding multiple pieces of sound information in their short-term memory. Direct interventions have focused on improving working memory and phonological skills rather than teachers trying to address these difficulties in the classroom. Temple et al. (2003) found the direct intervention programme Fast ForWord improved reading performance and changes in the neural activation of dyslexic children, showing increased activity in their left temporoparietal cortex, an area that is associated with phonological processing, which came near to the activity shown in normal controls. More research is needed on the long-term effectiveness of these interventions. <p>Credit other appropriate points</p>

Level	Mark	Descriptor
AO1 (4 marks), AO2 (4 marks)		
Candidates should focus equally on knowledge and understanding and application to the context.		
Level 0	0	No creditworthy material
Level 1	1–2 marks	Candidate shows limited knowledge and understanding of the context. Makes very limited or no mention of relevant evidence from the context. (AO2)
Level 2	3–4 marks	Candidate shows largely accurate knowledge and understanding of the context. Discussion is not fully developed, and is not balanced or comprehensive in importance to the arguments. Arguments are infrequently supported by relevant evidence from the context. (AO2)
Level 3	5–6 marks	Candidate shows accurate knowledge and understanding of the context. Discussion shows mostly sound reasoning. The answer is supported by arguments but the discussion may not be balanced or comprehensive in importance to the arguments. The discussion is supported by relevant evidence from the context. (AO2)
Level 4	7–8 marks	Candidate shows accurate and comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the context. The discussion is logical and balanced, and shows sound reasoning. Comprehensive knowledge of different arguments which are supported by relevant evidence from the context. (AO2)

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Q.	Answer
Q2.	<p>AO1 (4 marks), AO2 (4 marks)</p> <p>AO1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The multi-store model of memory (Atkinson and Shiffrin, 1968) is composed of sensory memory, short-term memory and long-term memory stores. Attention is the process that determines whether information in the sensory memory store enters the short-term memory store. Information that is not attended to is forgotten. Short-term memories must be rehearsed to enter the long-term store. Memories that have not been rehearsed are forgotten. Short-term memory has a limited capacity of five to nine items (e.g. Miller, 1956). People can hold more information than this capacity; additional information may be lost when the old information is replaced. Information may be stored in the long-term store forever (Bahrick et al., 1975). Information that is not accessed is not accessible. <p>AO2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Claire, who was not expecting the attack, may not have been paying attention at the time of the incident. Failure to attend to the sensory information leads to information not being stored in short-term memory. Rehearsal is necessary to ensure that the memory is retained in long-term memory. Claire may have rehearsed the information about the man because she did not realise the significance of the information. Claire may have been using her short-term memory capacity for other things, making her unable to store extra information. Claire may have seen details about the man but be unable to access these details from her short-term memory. <p>Credit other appropriate points</p>

Level	Mark	Descriptor
AO1 (4 marks), AO2 (4 marks)		
Candidates should focus equally on knowledge and understanding and application to the context.		
Level 0	0	No creditworthy material
Level 1	1–2 marks	Candidate shows limited knowledge and understanding of the context. Makes very limited or no mention of relevant evidence from the context. (AO2)
Level 2	3–4 marks	Candidate shows largely accurate knowledge and understanding of the context. Discussion is not fully developed, and is not balanced or does not address the importance to the arguments. Arguments are infrequently supported by evidence from the context. (AO2)
Level 3	5–6 marks	Candidate shows accurate knowledge and understanding of the context. Discussion shows mostly sound reasoning. The answer addresses the arguments but the discussion may not be balanced or does not address the importance to the arguments. The discussion is supported by evidence from the context. (AO2)
Level 4	7–8 marks	Candidate shows accurate and comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the context. The discussion is logical and balanced, and shows sound reasoning. The answer shows comprehensive knowledge of different arguments which are supported by relevant evidence from the context. (AO2)

Q.	Answer
Q3.	<p>AO1 (4 marks)</p> <p>A mark is awarded to each point relating to episodic memory. Together, the points form a coherent description worth up to 4 marks.</p> <p>Example: Episodic memories are our memories of past events (1). When recalling episodic memories, we remember the time and place attached to the events (1). Episodic memories are unique to each individual (1). A specific type of episodic memories is autobiographical memories, which are only personal events (1).</p> <p>Credit other appropriate points</p>

Q4.	<p style="text-align: right;">AO1 (4 marks), AO3 (4 marks)</p> <p>AO1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecological validity is the extent to which research findings can be applied to the experiment itself, such as real life • Ecological validity is higher when the study uses natural settings and natural participants do not know they are taking part • Ecological validity is lower when the study is conducted in a laboratory and the participants are affected by demand characteristics • Research into reconstructive memory includes Bartlett's (1932) The War of the Ghosts, which participants heard a Native American folk tale and had to recall the details of • The War of the Ghosts used unusual terminology and style of prose • Participants found it difficult to understand how different parts of the story related to each other <p>AO3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other more ecologically valid research has been conducted; for example, Brewer and Treyens (1981), who had participants come to an office and then gave them a surprise test. Ecological validity is due to the use of real-life setting and to testing incidentally how many memories are formed in real life. • However, Brewer and Treyens (1981) manipulated which objects were in the office, so the memory errors may not be typical of our normal everyday memory • Steyvers and Hemmer (2012) used natural, non-manipulated environments and found lower error rates, which suggests that it is important to use ecologically valid settings • Reconstructive memory has important real-life implications such as eyewitness testimony; therefore, it is important that research on the reconstructive nature of memory is conducted in real life • Loftus and Palmer (1974) found that misleading information could alter memory of a situation; however, they used videos of crashes which do not produce the same emotional response as a real-life witness situation • An increase in ecological validity often means a decrease in control, and researchers must strike a careful balance between the two • Rigorous control allows researchers to posit causal explanations but reduces the ecological validity of the research <p>Credit other appropriate points</p>
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Level	Mark	Descriptor
<p style="text-align: center;">AO1 (4 marks), AO3 (4 marks)</p> <p>Candidates should focus equally on knowledge and their evaluation/conclusion.</p>		
Level 0	0	No creditworthy material
Level 1	1–2 marks	Candidate shows limited knowledge and understanding of the topic. A generic conclusion may be present. Evidence supports the conclusion. There is a partial attempt to answer the question. (AO1)
Level 2	3–4 marks	Candidate shows largely accurate knowledge and understanding of the topic. Argument uses statement rather than logical chains of reasoning. Evidence for the argument using generally accurate factual details. (AO3)
Level 3	5–6 marks	Candidate shows accurate knowledge and understanding of the topic. Arguments show mostly sound reasoning. Reasoning leads to a conclusion. The answer shows knowledge of different arguments and how they may not be balanced. (AO3)
Level 4	7–8 marks	Candidate shows accurate and comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the topic. The evaluation is logical and shows sound reasoning. The answer shows comprehensive knowledge of different arguments and how they may not be balanced. (AO3)

Glossary

Abstract	A section at the beginning of a journal article which gives a brief summary of the article
Aim	What the study intends to research
Articulatory process	Rehearses auditory information (inner voice) to prevent forgetting
Assimilation	Trying to fit new information into our previously held knowledge
Attention	Focus necessary to move sensory information into short-term memory
Autobiographical memory	Another term for episodic memory; autobiographical memory is the memory of personal events in our own life
Blood-oxygen-level-dependent (BOLD) response	A technique used in fMRI that shows activity in the brain by measuring the ratio of oxygenated and deoxygenated haemoglobin
Cause and effect	The idea that changing one variable causes a change in another; a prediction is only possible if the relationship is causal
Capacity	How much information can be held in a store
Central executive	Determines how resources, including attention, are allocated
Chunking	Reducing the amount of information we have to remember by grouping it into chunks; a technique that improves short-term memory
Confidentiality	Experimenters are not to disclose confidential information about participants in a way that the participant is not identifiable from the data; names are replaced by numbers
Control	Preventing variables other than the independent variable from affecting the study
Control group	A group of participants who are not exposed to the experimental condition; the independent variable and who are compared with the experimental group
Counterbalancing	To avoid order effects, the order in which participants take part in the conditions is changed; for example, half of participants may do Condition A then Condition B, the other half may do Condition B then Condition A
Critical value	A value found in a critical values table, which is used to determine if the results are significant
Debrief	A process after the study of revealing the true nature of the study to participants
Deception	Deception is the act of deliberately misleading someone; it is used in some experiments to make the study more realistic
Declarative memory	Memory that requires conscious thought; it encompasses facts and events; for example, remembering what you did last week or thinking back in time
Demand characteristics	When the participant's behaviour is a reflection of how they think they should behave; responding to the 'demands' of the situation
Dependent variable	A variable which measures the presumed effect of the independent variable
Descriptive statistics	Numerical ways of describing the data by identifying key features
Directional hypothesis	The researcher predicts the direction of the effects
Discussion	A section of a journal article that relates the findings back to the aims of the study; how the results compare to previous research outlined in the introduction
Double-blind technique	Neither the participant nor the experimenter knows who is in the experimental group; often used in drug trials
Duration	How long a memory lasts before we can no longer recall it
Ecological validity	The extent to which the findings can be generalised to the real world and everyday behaviour
Elaborative rehearsal	Organising and creating associations by linking the new information to existing knowledge
Encoding	How information changes to be stored in memory

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Episodic buffer	Temporarily stores information and integrates information from other memory systems
Episodic memory	Our memory of past events, usually including a time and place (for example, what happened on last year's birthday)
Experimental design	How participants are chosen and allocated to the different conditions
Experimenter effects	When the researcher provides subtle clues about the expected response to the participant to behave differently
Explicit memory	Another term for declarative memory; memory that requires conscious recall
External validity	The extent results are generalisable across settings and populations
Extraneous variables	Variables that may influence the behaviour in addition to the independent variable (manipulation of IV) and so should be controlled for
Field experiment	An experiment that occurs in real-life settings but the researcher controls the independent variable
Free recall	Able to recall the items in any order, as opposed to a cued recall (e.g. a phone number)
Functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI)	A neuroimaging method which examines brain activity by measuring associated changes in blood flow
Hypothesis	A prediction of the outcome of the research
Implicit memory	Memory that can be formed automatically; it encompasses skills and habits (for example, you do not need to consciously think how to ride a bike)
Independent groups	Different participants take part in each condition
Independent variable (IV)	A variable which is manipulated to produce a presumed change in the dependent variable
Inferential statistics	Tests conducted on the raw data to try to determine whether the results are significant
Informed consent	The participant knows exactly what is going to happen and agrees to take part. Differs from just consent, when the person does not know what is going to happen but agrees to take part.
Internal validity	The extent to which the behaviour is the result of the independent variable (in the IV)
Inter-rater reliability	A method of establishing reliability which compares the results of two different raters with each other
Introduction	A section of a journal article which discusses the reasons for the research, identifies the hypothesis and aim of the research
Laboratory experiment	An experiment conducted in an artificial environment where the researcher has control over the independent variable to see its effect on the dependent variable
Levelling	Simplifying a story by reducing the number of details
Levels of significance	The level chosen (typically 0.05) which determines the probability of a Type I error
Long-term memory	Our memory for past events (which is longer than our short-term memory)
Objective	Free from errors caused by subjective interpretation
Maintenance rehearsal	Rehearsal by repetition of the information
Mann-Whitney U test	A statistical test that can be used for independent groups
Matched pairs design	Each participant is matched to another participant to control for individual differences in factors that are important for the study. Each participant is tested in both conditions with their opposite number acting as the control.
Mean	An average that is calculated by adding together all the values and dividing by the number of values there are. This measure takes into account the distribution of the data
Measures of central tendency	Measures that aim to find the central value of a data set
Measures of dispersion	A measure that describes how spread out the data is
Median	An average that is calculated by ordering the data by size and finding the middle value
Method/procedure	A section in a journal article that describes exactly how the experiment was conducted

Mode	An average that is calculated by ordering the data and finding the most often
Non-directional hypothesis	The researcher predicts that there will be an effect but does not say which effect will be
Normal distribution	A bell-shaped curve where the peak is the mean value and the peak is the peak
Null hypothesis	States there will be no effect
Operationalisation	Precisely defining your variables so that a hypothesis can be tested
Opportunity sample	A sample drawn from whoever is available at the time and does not meet criteria for participation
Order effects	When the later condition is affected by an earlier condition
Participant variables	Characteristics of the participants which may affect the results
Phonological loop	Encodes auditory information
Phonological store	Holds the auditory information (inner ear)
Population validity	Whether the findings can be generalised to people other than those in the study
Predictive validity	Predictive validity is whether the performance in the study can be used to predict what they think it should be able to predict.
Primacy effect	When information we are exposed to first is better remembered than information rehearsed
Probability	The likelihood of an event happening
Procedural memory	Our memory of how to do actions; for example, how to ride a bike
Protection from harm	Participants should be protected from psychological harm and be aware of anything that may present a risk to them
Random sample	A sample that is drawn so that members of the population have an equal chance of being selected
Randomisation	Altering the order of the material to reduce order effects
Range	A measure of spread that is calculated by subtracting the least value from the greatest value
Rationalisation	Explaining confusing elements of a story so that they make sense
Recency effect	When information we are exposed to last is recalled better than information in short-term memory
Reconstructive memory	A theory by Bartlett (1932) which argued that memory is not a perfect recording of events
Rehearsal	Mentally repeating information to maintain the memory in short-term memory
Reliability	The extent to which results are consistent across observations
Repeated measures design	The same participants take part in all of the study conditions
Repeated reproduction	When the same information is recalled several times over a period of time
Results	A section in a journal article which presents the description of the findings
Retrieval	Accessing the stored memory
Right to withdraw	It should be made clear to participants that they have the right to withdraw at any point, and that any data from the study can be destroyed
Sampling	The method of selecting participants from the required population for your study
Sampling bias	When the way the sample is selected does not represent the population
Schema (schemata)	Schemata are our mental representations of objects and events, and what they mean about what words and concepts mean, and what to expect

Semantic memory	Our memory concerned with the meaning of things or what a wrench is for
Sensory memory	The store where sensory information is inputted
Serial position effect	An effect whereby the order of information changes
Serial reproduction	One person learns and recalls information, their version is recalled, and so on.
Sharpening	Overemphasising the importance of certain details in a memory
Short-term memory	Our immediate memory
Significant result	The calculated value of the statistical test is less than that determined by the level of significance
Situational variables	Variables in the environment which may affect the results of a study
Skewed distribution	A bell-shaped curve that is skewed towards one side of the mean
Standard deviation	A measure of spread that uses every point of data and is the square root of the variance
Standardisation	The procedures and materials are identical, which ensures consistency of environment and allows other researchers to repeat the study
Stratified sample	In a population with several groups, the number of participants is proportional to the size of each group; the correct numbers of the groups are selected
Systematic sample	Selecting the participants at a fixed interval after random selection
Test-retest reliability	The study is repeated more than once to check for consistency
Type I error	When we reject the null hypothesis when we should not
Type II error	When we accept the null hypothesis when we should not
Unitary store	A store that operates as one; if damaged, it should stop working
Volunteer sample	Participants self-select; they choose to participate in the study
Visuospatial sketch pad	Encodes visual information
Wilcoxon signed-rank test	A statistical test used on studies with a repeated measures design
Word-length effect	People find it easier to remember shorter words than longer words
Working memory	The capacity to hold and manipulate information in the mind

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