

AP[®] Exam Practice Questions

Multiple-Choice Questions

- What does the “magical number seven, plus or minus two” refer to?
 - The ideal number of times to rehearse information in the first encoding session
 - The number of seconds information stays in short-term memory without rehearsal
 - The capacity of short-term memory
 - The number of seconds information stays in echoic storage
 - The number of years most long-term memories last
- Which of the following describes long-term potentiation (LTP)?
 - When attempting to retrieve information, it is easier to recognize than to recall.
 - Constructed memories have the potential to be either accurate or inaccurate.
 - Changes in synapses allow for more efficient transfer of information.
 - Implicit memories are processed by the cerebellum instead of by the hippocampus.
 - Information is transferred from working memory to long-term memory.
- Which of the following abilities is an example of implicit memory?
 - Riding a bicycle while talking to your friend about something that happened in class
 - Retrieving from memory the details of an assignment that is due tomorrow
 - Vividly recalling significant events like the 9/11 attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C.
 - Remembering the details of your last birthday party
 - Recognizing names and pictures of your classmates many years after they have graduated
- Which of the following statements concerning memory is true?
 - Hypnosis, when used as a component of therapy, usually improves the accuracy of memory.
 - One aspect of memory that is usually accurate is the source of the remembered information.
 - Children’s memories of abuse are more accurate than other childhood memories.
 - Memories we are more certain of are more likely to be accurate.
 - Memories are often a blend of correct and incorrect information.
- The basketball players could remember the main points of their coach’s halftime talk, but not her exact words. This is because they encoded the information
 - semantically.
 - iconically.
 - implicitly.
 - shallowly.
 - automatically.
- When someone provides his phone number to another person, he usually pauses after the area code and again after the next three numbers. This pattern underscores the importance of which memory principle?
 - Chunking
 - The serial position effect
 - Semantic encoding
 - Auditory encoding
 - Recognition
- Which of the following is true regarding the role of the amygdala in memory?
 - The amygdala help process implicit memories.
 - The amygdala support Freud’s ideas about memory because they allow us to repress memories of trauma.
 - The amygdala produce long-term potentiation in the brain.
 - The amygdala help make sure we remember events that trigger strong emotional responses.
 - The amygdala are active when the retrieval of a long-term memory is primed.
- Which of the following illustrates the serial position effect?
 - The only name Kensie remembers from the people she met at the party is Spencer because she thought he was particularly good looking.
 - Kimia has trouble remembering information from the book’s first unit when she reviews for semester finals.
 - It’s easy for Brittney to remember that carbon’s atomic number is 6 because her birthday is on December 6.
 - Kyle was not able to remember the names of all of his new co-workers after one week on the job, but he could remember them after two weeks.
 - Alp is unable to remember the middle of a list of vocabulary words as well as he remembers the first or last words on the list.

9. Mnemonic devices are *least* likely to be dependent upon which of the following?
- Imagery
 - Acronyms
 - Rhymes
 - Chunking
 - Massed rehearsals
10. You are more likely to remember psychology information in your psychology classroom than in other environments because of what memory principle?
- Mood congruence
 - Context effects
 - State-dependency
 - Proactive interference
 - Retroactive interference
11. Which of the following kinds of information is *not* likely to be automatically processed?
- Space information
 - Time information
 - Frequency information
 - New information
 - Rehearsed information
12. Which of the following is an example of source amnesia?
- Iva can't remember the details of a horrifying event because she has repressed them.
 - Mary has entirely forgotten about an incident in grade school until her friend reminds her of the event.
 - Michael can't remember this year's locker combination because he confuses it with last year's combination.
 - Stephen misremembers a dream as something that really happened.
 - Anna, who is trying to lose weight, is unable to remember several of the between-meal snacks she had yesterday.
13. Which of the following is an accurate conclusion based on Hermann Ebbinghaus' forgetting curve research?
- Most forgetting occurs early on and then levels off
 - We forget more rapidly as time passes
 - Forgetting is relatively constant over time
 - Forgetting is related to many factors, but time is not one of them
 - We are more likely to forget items in the middle of a list than at the beginning or the end
14. "Chair," "freedom," and "ball" are all examples of what?
- Phonemes
 - Heuristics
 - Concepts
 - Telegraphic utterances
 - Prototypes
15. People are more concerned about a medical procedure when told it has a 10 percent death rate than they are when told it has a 90 percent survival rate. Which psychological concept explains this difference in concern?
- Belief perseverance
 - Insight
 - Intuition
 - Framing
 - Confirmation bias
16. Which of the following illustrates a heuristic?
- Calculating the area of a rectangle by multiplying the length times the width
 - Using news reports of corporate fraud to estimate how much business fraud occurs in American business
 - Looking in each room of your home to find your sleeping cat
 - Following a new recipe to bake a cake for your friend
 - Trying every key on your mom's key ring until you find the one that unlocks the seldom-used storeroom in the basement
17. Which of the following most likely represents a prototype for the concept indicated in parentheses?
- A whale (mammal)
 - An ostrich (bird)
 - A beanbag chair (chair)
 - An igloo (house)
 - A golden retriever (dog)
18. The inability to see a problem from a fresh perspective is called what?
- Confirmation bias
 - Insight
 - Representativeness
 - Fixation
 - Availability
19. Which phrase best describes the concept of phonemes?
- Units of meaning in a language
 - A form of syntax
 - The basis of grammar
 - Units of sound in a language
 - A form of telegraphic speech
20. Which concept best explains why people often underestimate the amount of time it will take to complete a project?
- Belief perseverance
 - Framing
 - Intuition
 - The availability heuristic
 - Overconfidence

- 21.** Which of the following is not one of Robert Sternberg's components of creativity?
- A venturesome personality
 - Imaginative thinking skills
 - A creative environment
 - A position of ignorance
 - Intrinsic motivation
- 22.** Which of the following demonstrates the representativeness heuristic?
- Deciding that a new kid in school is a nerd because he looks like a nerd
 - Fearing air travel because of memories of plane crashes
 - Checking in every drawer to find some matches because matches are usually in drawers
 - Having the solution to a word problem pop into your head because you have just successfully solved a similar problem
 - Applying for jobs in several local grocery stores because your best friend just got a job in a grocery store
- 23.** Benjamin Lee Whorf's linguistic determinism hypothesis relates to what aspect of the power of language?
- How thinking influences language
 - How language influences thinking
 - The role of the language acquisition device
 - The importance of critical periods in language development
 - The development of language in nonhuman animals
- 24.** According to Noam Chomsky, what is the most essential environmental stimulus necessary for language acquisition?
- Exposure to language in early childhood
 - Instruction in grammar
 - Reinforcement for babbling and other early verbal behaviors
 - Imitation and drill
 - Linguistic determinism

Free-Response Questions

- 1.** Jacque learned to speak Italian when she was in the first grade and was able to speak, read, and write Italian fairly well by the fourth grade. She moved to a new school system that did not have Italian as a choice for World Languages, so she decided to take Spanish. Sometimes she found herself saying and writing words in Italian as she completed her Spanish assignments. Often, she remembered the vocabulary in Italian before she said the word in Spanish. Sometimes she felt like knowing Italian helped her learn Spanish, but sometimes she thought it just confused her! When Jacque was in her Spanish classroom, she felt more at ease with the Spanish language. When she went to an Italian restaurant, she enjoyed being able to read the menu to her friends if it was written in Italian.

Briefly define each concept and use an example to show how each concept is related to Jacque's experiences.

- Working memory
- Explicit memory
- Effortful processing
- Context-dependent memory
- Proactive interference

Explain how these brain structures play a role in Jacque's memory processing.

- Hippocampus
- Amygdala

2. Our cognitive processes can enhance or inhibit memory, decision making, problem solving, and communication. Explain how each of the following may both help and hurt cognitive functioning.

- Mental set
- Availability heuristic
- Prototypes
- Critical (or sensitive) period for language development
- Stress effects on memory

(10 points)

3. George, a senior in high school, was reminiscing with his friends about their first homecoming dance.

A. Explain how each of the following psychological terms could *help* George's recollection or memory of his freshman-year homecoming dance.

- Flashbulb memory
- Mood-congruent effect

B. Explain how each of the following psychological terms could *hinder* George's recollection or memory of his freshman-year homecoming dance.

- Serial position effect
- Retroactive interference
- Misinformation effect

(5 points)

Multiple-choice self-tests and more may be found at www.worthpublishers.com/MyersAP2e