

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Cognitive Maze 10th Grade Psychology Quiz

Sophomores untangle high-stakes cognitive biases and linguistic relativity theories to see how deep-seated mental frameworks shape their daily reality.

1. A defense attorney uses the 'misinformation effect' by subtly using the word 'smashed' instead of 'hit' when questioning a witness. Which cognitive psychologist's research on reconstructive memory does this mirror?

Answer: A) Elizabeth Loftus

Loftus's work demonstrated that eyewitness testimony can be altered by the phrasing of a question, showing that memory is a reconstructive process rather than a video recording.

2. The _____ hypothesis suggests that the language a person speaks, such as the specific directional terms used by the Kuuk Thaayorre people, actually determines or influences their cognitive perception of the world.

Answer: B) Sapir-Whorf

The Sapir-Whorf hypothesis, or linguistic relativity, explores how structural differences in languages are mirrored by differences in how speakers perceive and think about the world.

3. Anterograde amnesia is a condition where an individual loses the ability to retrieve memories that were formed prior to a traumatic brain injury.

Answer: B) False

False. Anterograde amnesia is the inability to form new memories after an injury; the loss of past memories is known as retrograde amnesia.

4. A chess grandmaster can remember the positions of pieces on a board better than a novice because they use 'chunking.' How does chunking affect the capacity of working memory?

Answer: C) It organizes data into familiar, manageable units.

Chunking allows the brain to group individual bits of data into meaningful patterns, effectively expanding the utility of the limited 7 ± 2 capacity of working memory.

5. When you struggle to remember your new locker combination because your old one keeps popping into your head, you are experiencing _____ interference.

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Answer: B) Proactive

Proactive interference occurs when older information (the old combination) hinders the recall of newly learned information (the new combination).

6. Which cognitive 'sin' or error is demonstrated when a person believes they 'knew it all along' after an event has already occurred, such as a sports fan claiming they predicted an upset after the game ends?

Answer: C) Hindsight Bias

Hindsight bias is the tendency to overestimate one's ability to have predicted an outcome that could not possibly have been predicted.

7. Metacognition refers specifically to the biological process of synapses strengthening during long-term potentiation (LTP).

Answer: B) False

False. Metacognition is 'thinking about thinking'—the awareness and regulation of one's own cognitive processes—whereas LTP is a physiological process.

8. In the game of 'Trouble,' a player refuses to change their strategy even when it clearly isn't working because they have already invested so much time into it. This is known as the:

Answer: A) Sunk Cost Fallacy

The sunk cost fallacy is a cognitive bias where people continue an endeavor because of previously invested resources (time, money) rather than current logic.

9. A person suffering from damage to _____ area in the brain can produce speech that is fluent but largely nonsensical, demonstrating a specific breakdown in cognitive linguistic processing.

Answer: B) Wernicke's

Wernicke's aphasia impacts language comprehension and the ability to produce meaningful sentences, even if the speech sounds grammatically correct.

10. Elaborative rehearsal is generally more effective than maintenance rehearsal for moving information into long-term memory because it involves deep semantic processing.

Answer: A) True

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True. Elaborative rehearsal involves thinking about the meaning of information or connecting it to existing knowledge, which creates stronger neural pathways than simple repetition.