

Answer Key: Outsmart the Trickster Mind: 9th Grade Memory & Cognition Quiz

Students apply theoretical models like state-dependent memory and metacognitive monitoring to real-world academic and social scenarios.

1. A student studies for a chemistry exam while listening to a specific lo-fi jazz playlist. During the test, they find it easier to recall the periodic table while humming those same melodies. This phenomenon is known as:

Answer: B) Context-Dependent Memory

Context-dependent memory occurs when the environment or cues present during encoding (the music) match those present during retrieval, making recall more efficient.

2. When you remember how to ride a bicycle or tie your shoes without consciously thinking about the steps, you are utilizing _____ memory.

Answer: C) Procedural

Procedural memory is a type of implicit memory that stores information on how to perform certain motor skills and habits.

3. Metacognition refers to the physical growth of new neurons in the brain during the learning process.

Answer: B) False

Metacognition is 'thinking about thinking'—the awareness and regulation of one's own cognitive processes—not the biological growth of neurons (neurogenesis).

4. You are trying to memorize a list of 15 grocery items. You group them into categories like 'Dairy,' 'Produce,' and 'Frozen Foods' to remember them better. This cognitive strategy is called:

Answer: B) Chunking

Chunking involves organizing large amounts of information into smaller, manageable units or 'chunks' to increase short-term memory capacity.

5. The _____ effect explains why someone might remember the first and last names on a guest list but forget the names in the middle.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Answer: C) Serial Position

The serial position effect consists of the primacy effect (remembering the start) and the recency effect (remembering the end), showing how position impacts recall.

6. A mental shortcut that allows us to make quick decisions, though not always perfectly accurate, is known as a heuristic.

Answer: A) True

Heuristics are 'rules of thumb' or mental shortcuts that simplify decision-making, often at the cost of potential bias or error.

7. Which cognitive bias is occurring when a person only reads news articles that support their existing political beliefs and ignores articles that contradict them?

Answer: C) Confirmation Bias

Confirmation bias is the tendency to search for, interpret, and favor information that confirms one's pre-existing beliefs.

8. If you cannot form new memories after a head injury, but you can still remember your childhood, you are suffering from _____ amnesia.

Answer: B) Anterograde

Anterograde amnesia is the inability to create new memories after the event that caused the amnesia, while long-term memories from before the event remain intact.

9. Working memory is simply another name for long-term storage where facts are kept for decades.

Answer: B) False

Working memory is a short-term system responsible for temporarily holding and processing information; it is distinct from permanent long-term storage.

10. When an individual struggle to see that a heavy book could be used as a doorstop because they only view it as something to read, they are experiencing:

Answer: B) Functional Fixedness

Functional fixedness is a cognitive bias that limits a person to using an object only in the way it is traditionally used.