Name: _____   Date: _____

Answer Key: Decoding the Neural Narrative: A Cognitive Psychology Quiz for College

Scholars apply executive function theories and semantic network models to complex cognitive scenarios during seminar reviews or lecture assessments.

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1. A patient experiences 'source amnesia,' correctly recalling a specific fact but failing to remember the context in which it was learned. This disruption primarily affects which aspect of long-term memory?

Answer: B) Episodic memory

> Source amnesia involves a disconnection between semantic knowledge (the fact) and episodic memory (the specific autobiographical event/context of learning).

2. When an individual relies on the _____ heuristic, they judge the evening's likelihood of rain based on how easily they can recall recent instances of thunderstorms.

Answer: C) Availability

> The availability heuristic involves estimating frequency or probability based on the ease with which examples come to mind.

3. According to the Levels of Processing theory, structural encoding (focusing on physical appearance) leads to more durable memory traces than semantic encoding.

Answer: B) False

> False; semantic encoding (meaning-based) is considered 'deep' processing and results in better retention than 'shallow' structural encoding.

4. Consider the 'Self-Reference Effect.' Why does relating new information to one's own life experiences typically improve recall compared to simple rehearsal?

Answer: B) It utilizes existing, highly organized semantic networks

> Self-referencing integrates new data into well-established cognitive schemas, providing more retrieval cues and 'hooks' for later access.

5. In Baddeley's Model of Working Memory, the _____ acts as a 'backup' store that communicates with both long-term memory and the components of working memory.

Answer: D) Episodic buffer

> The episodic buffer is a temporary store that integrates information from the other components and links it to long-term memory.

6. Which cognitive phenomenon explains why a chess grandmaster can remember the positions of pieces on a board better than a novice, provided the pieces represent an actual game scenario?

Answer: B) Chunking

> Chunking allows the expert to organize individual pieces into meaningful configurations based on domain-specific long-term knowledge.

7. Retroactive interference occurs when newly acquired information makes it more difficult to recall previously learned information.

Answer: A) True

> True; retroactive interference describes the disruptive effect of new learning on the recall of old information.

8. A researcher presents a list of words: 'Bed, Rest, Awake, Tired, Dream.' A participant later 'recalls' seeing the word 'Sleep,' even though it wasn't there. This demonstrates:

Answer: A) The Deese-Roediger-McDermott (DRM) effect

> The DRM paradigm illustrates how the activation of semantic associates can lead to the creation of false memories.

9. The tendency to search for, interpret, and favor information that confirms one's pre-existing beliefs is known as _____ bias.

Answer: B) Confirmation

> Confirmation bias involves selective thinking whereby one notices evidence that supports their beliefs while ignoring contradictory evidence.

10. Functional fixedness is a cognitive bias that enhances problem-solving by restricting an individual to use an object only in the way it is traditionally used.

Answer: B) False

> False; functional fixedness is an obstacle to problem-solving because it prevents people from seeing alternative uses for objects.