2.3 Types of Long-Term Memory: Episodic, Semantic and Procedural: Test Pack

AQA 7182 · about 15 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Outline episodic memory as a type of long-term memory in the context of remembering a personal birthday event. Include what is stored and how recall is experienced.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 Explain procedural memory with reference to learning to tie shoelaces as an example of a motor skill. Say how awareness during performance differs from episodic recall.

(Total for Question 2 is 3 marks)

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3 Outline one strength of distinguishing episodic, semantic and procedural memory as separate types of long-term memory, using case-study evidence such as HM or Clive Wearing to support your point. Be specific about the evidence.

(Total for Question 3 is 3 marks)

4 A researcher claims that procedural memory does not require conscious rehearsal and is therefore unaffected by tasks that occupy conscious attention. Describe one piece of empirical evidence that would support this claim and one methodical limitation of that evidence.

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 2.3 Types of Long-Term Memory: Episodic, Semantic and Procedural: Test Pack

Question 1

states that episodic memory stores personal events or episodes with contextual details such as time and place oe — **B1**

states that recall is conscious and involves recollection of specific experiences, feelings or details oe — **B1**

Answer: Episodic memory stores personal events with contextual detail, for example remembering where and when your birthday party happened and how you felt. It involves conscious recollection of that specific event.

Question 2

defines procedural memory as memory for skills and actions, often performed automatically and without conscious awareness oe — **M1**

uses the example: tying shoelaces is a motor skill stored in procedural memory and can be performed without consciously recalling the learning episode oe — **A1**

mentions that procedural memory is acquired through practice and is durable oe — **A1**

Answer: Procedural memory stores skills and actions, such as tying shoelaces. After practice the action is performed automatically, without consciously recalling the learning episode, and the skill is durable over time.

Question 3

identifies a strength: empirical dissociations between memory types provide evidence for separate systems oe — **M1**

gives case-study evidence: HM and Clive Wearing showed impaired episodic and semantic memory but retained procedural skills oe — **A1**

explains why this supports separate types: preservation of skills despite loss of personal events and facts indicates different underlying memory systems oe — **A1**

Answer: A strength is that case studies show dissociations: for example HM and Clive Wearing had severe impairment of episodic and often semantic memory but could still learn or perform procedural skills, suggesting these types are supported by different memory systems.

Question 4

describes supporting evidence, e.g. patients with amnesia can learn motor tasks like mirror drawing despite impaired conscious recall of learning episodes oe — **M1**

explains why this supports the claim: procedural learning occurred without conscious rehearsal or episodic memory of practice oe — **A1**

identifies a methodological limitation, e.g. small sample sizes in case studies or lack of control conditions that isolate attention from other factors oe — **M1**

explains the limitation's impact, e.g. small, atypical samples limit generalisability and may confound preserved skill learning with other compensatory processes oe — **A1**

Answer: Supporting evidence: amnesic patients can acquire motor skills such as mirror drawing despite not remembering practice sessions, implying procedural learning occurs without conscious rehearsal. Limitation: such evidence often comes from small case studies lacking control groups, so results may not generalise and alternative explanations such as implicit learning or remaining episodic fragments cannot be fully ruled out.

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