

Exercise walk-through

Retrieving Memories ■ 2.6

eXercise

You must be able to

- distinguish **recall** 回忆 from **recognition** 再认
- explain how **retrieval cues** 提取线索 work
- describe **context-dependent** 情境依赖 and **state-dependent** 状态依赖 memory
- explain the **serial position effect** 系列位置效应

Method — Recall and recognition

Recall requires producing the information unaided; **recognition** requires only identifying it among options. Recognition is easier because the cue is supplied.

Method — Retrieval cues

A memory is reached through associations. Any feature encoded with it — a word, a smell, a place — can serve as a route back. More and better cues at encoding means more routes at retrieval.

Method — Context and state

Recall is better when the **external context** at retrieval matches encoding (same room, same setting), and when the **internal state** matches (mood, arousal). Both are cue effects.

Method — Serial position

In a list, the **first** items are recalled well (rehearsed into long-term memory) and the **last** items are recalled well (still in short-term memory). The middle suffers most.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State the difference between recall and recognition and say which is easier.

Solution 2.1

Method: Recall and recognition

Worked steps

recall requires producing the information unaided; recognition requires identifying it among options **B1**; recognition is easier **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Explain how a retrieval cue helps.

Solution 2.2

Worked steps

a cue is a feature associated with the memory at encoding **B1**, providing a route back to it **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

A student revises in the room where the exam will be held.

- (a) Name the effect being exploited.
- (b) State one limitation of relying on it.

Solution 2.3

Worked steps

(a) context-dependent memory **B1**. (b) the effect is modest, and material encoded with meaning transfers across contexts anyway **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

In a 20-item list, items 9 to 12 are usually recalled

- A** best of all
- B** worst of all
- C** the same as the first items
- D** the same as the last items

Solution 3.1

Method: Serial position

- A best of all
- B worst of all
- C the same as the first items
- D the same as the last items



Worked steps

B. middle items are neither rehearsed into long-term memory nor still in short-term memory.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

Remembering an event more easily when in the same mood as when it happened is

A context-dependent memory

B state-dependent memory

C the serial position effect

D recognition

Solution 3.2

Method: Context and state

A context-dependent memory

B state-dependent memory 

C the serial position effect

D recognition

Worked steps

B. the internal state acts as a retrieval cue.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A multiple-choice test yields higher scores than a short-answer test on the same material.

- (a) State the reason in terms of retrieval.
- (b) Explain why a high multiple-choice score may overstate what the student can use.

Solution 3.3

Method: Context and state

Worked steps

(a) recognition supplies the retrieval cue directly **B1**. (b) real use usually requires recall **B1**, so a score that depends on supplied cues may not predict unaided performance **B1**.