

# 2.3 Introduction to Memory

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ **Total: 12 marks**

**KEY WORDS** working memory 工作记忆 • explicit 外显 • short-term 短时  
• short-term memory 短时记忆 • implicit 内隐

## Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on the **three-stage model** 三阶段模型 of memory.

You must be able to:

- name the three stages and state what each does
- distinguish **sensory** 感觉, **short-term** 短时 and **long-term** 长时 memory by capacity and duration
- explain what **working memory** 工作记忆 adds to the model
- distinguish **explicit** 外显 from **implicit** 内隐 memory

## 1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

### ■ Three processes

**Encoding** gets information in, **storage** holds it, **retrieval** gets it back out. A failure at any one of the three looks like forgetting, and telling them apart is most of the work.

### ■ Three stores

**Sensory memory** holds a large amount for under a second. **Short-term memory** holds about seven items for about twenty seconds without rehearsal. **Long-term memory** has no known practical limit and can last a lifetime.

### ■ Working memory

Working memory is short-term memory treated as an active workspace: it holds information **and manipulates it**, with separate handling of verbal and visual material under a central control.

### ■ Explicit and implicit

**Explicit** memory is consciously recalled — facts and events. **Implicit** memory shows up in performance without conscious recall — skills, conditioned responses.

## 2 Practice

**2.1** Name the three memory processes and state what each does. [3]

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**2.2** State the approximate capacity and duration of short-term memory. [2]

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**2.3** A person rides a bicycle after ten years without being able to describe how.

(a) Name the type of memory involved. [1]

(b) State how it differs from explicit memory. [1]

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## 3 Exam-style questions

**3.1** Working memory differs from short-term memory mainly because it [1]

|   |   |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |

- A lasts longer
- B manipulates information as well as holding it
- C has unlimited capacity
- D is unconscious

**3.2** Sensory memory is best described as [1]

|   |   |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |

- A small capacity, long duration
- B large capacity, very brief duration
- C unlimited capacity, unlimited duration
- D conscious and effortful

**3.3** A student can recognise a correct answer but cannot produce it unaided.

(a) State which process has failed. [1]

(b) Explain how the test format changes the difficulty. [2]

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