

17. ME.1 · Memory systems, processes and forgetting

Starter Quiz ·

GRE Subject Test · GRE Psychology

Name: _____ Score: _____

1. A learner already recognises each of NASA, BBC, NBA and UFO as one familiar unit. How many such units are listed?

2. You keep writing last year's date in January. This is
 - ☐ proactive interference
 - ☐ repression
 - ☐ decay
 - ☐ retroactive interference
3. In a standard immediate free-recall comparison, a filled delay before recall often reduces which serial-position advantage most clearly?
 - ☐ primacy effect
 - ☐ neither effect
 - ☐ recency effect
 - ☐ both effects equally
4. A fall in recall after a delay is sufficient proof that passive decay caused the forgetting.
 - ☐ True ☐ False
5. In Baddeley's model, speech-based information is held in the phonological _____.

6. Which statement best distinguishes iconic and echoic traces?
 - ☐ Every sensory trace has the same fixed duration.
 - ☐ Iconic traces are very brief; echoic traces can persist for a few seconds, with duration depending on the task.
 - ☐ Echoic memory is identical to permanent semantic memory.
7. Every person has an exactly seven-item raw working-memory capacity in every task.
 - ☐ True ☐ False
8. The same twelve letters form familiar abbreviations for one learner but not another. Which conclusion is justified?
 - ☐ Prior knowledge can change the meaningful units available for encoding.

- ☐ The first learner has unlimited storage.
 - ☐ Both must encode exactly the same chunks.
9. A filled delay reduces an immediate recency effect. Which conclusion goes beyond that evidence?
- ☐ The delay conditions matter when interpreting the result.
 - ☐ The final items could never contribute to long-term memory in any task.
 - ☐ The result is compatible with reduced immediate accessibility.

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Answers ·

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1. **4**

Four familiar units are listed. The question states that this learner recognises them; not every reader necessarily chunks unfamiliar letters in the same way.

2. **proactive interference**

Old learning intrudes on new.

3. **recency effect**

The usual immediate recency advantage is often reduced after a filled delay. This pattern does not establish that the final items were stored only in working memory or exclude every form of long-term recency.

4. **False**

A delay can also include interference or changed retrieval cues. The observation alone does not isolate passive decay.

5. **loop**

Rehearsed sub-vocally.

6. **Iconic traces are very brief; echoic traces can persist for a few seconds, with duration depending on the task.**

Modality and task matter; the diagram must not label both traces as under one second.

7. **False**

Memory-span estimates depend on task conditions, rehearsal, grouping and the learner. Familiar chunks are not interchangeable with raw items.

8. **Prior knowledge can change the meaningful units available for encoding.**

Chunking depends on learned patterns; counting printed groups does not establish identical internal units.

9. **The final items could never contribute to long-term memory in any task.**

The observation concerns a particular task and delay; it does not establish an exclusive storage location or a universal absence of long-term recency.