

MEMORY

1. The "retrieval deficit" hypothesis holds that memories do not fade with age but, instead, they just become more difficult to access. A finding which supports this explanation of memory change in older adults (Schonfield and Robertson) includes:
 - a. reduced age-differences upon recognition memory tasks
 - b. increased age-differences upon recognition memory tasks
 - c. failure of older adults to benefit from visual imagery memory-aides
 - d. both (b) and (c) above
2. Studies performed before the 1960's suggested that severe memory decline was an inevitable part of growing older. This overly pessimistic view of aging resulted from
 - a. age by cohort confounds in the early studies
 - b. the use of institutionalized rather than healthy, community-resident older subjects
 - c. failure to employ time-lag research designs
 - d. atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons during the 1950's
3. Hulicka and Weiss demonstrated that age-differences in memory performance had been over-estimated by
 - a. experimentally equating learning in their young and old groups
 - b. using abstract rather than meaningful stimuli
 - c. implementing a special "cueing" procedure
 - d. examining institutionalized as well as community-resident adults
4. Sensory memory is the first stage in the Information Processing Model of memory. An experimental procedure used to demonstrate its existence is:
 - a. Sperling's partial-report technique
 - b. the lexical decision-making task
 - c. Sternberg's memory span procedure
 - d. various forms of the Stroop test
5. The capacity of short-term memory is most easily measured using which of the following tasks:
 - a. digit span test
 - b. sequential integration of form procedure
 - c. backward visual masking procedure
 - d. Sperling's partial-report procedure
6. The capacity of short-term memory is most commonly estimated to be:
 - a. 2 items
 - b. 7 ± 2 items
 - c. greater than 10 but less than 50 items
 - d. varies between 10-20 across individuals

7. Studies of age-differences in short-term memory capacity have revealed:
- little or no reduction in capacity under static test conditions
 - short-term memory in older adults does not benefit from active rehearsal
 - capacity increases progressively with advancing adult age
 - deficits for numbers but not word stimuli
8. Age-related slowing in the speed of search through the contents of short-term memory can be demonstrated by which following:
- digit span test
 - sequential integration of form procedure
 - Sternberg's memory span procedure
 - Sperling's partial-report procedure
9. Which of the following findings suggests that long-term memory storage may be negatively affected by normative aging processes?
- intact metamemory performance
 - superior performance on recognition memory tests
 - failure of depth-of-processing manipulations to improve memory
 - reductions in reverse-order (backward) digit span
10. Sequential-integration-of-form experiments suggest that visual sensory memory
- decreases in duration with advanced age
 - increases in duration with advanced age
 - decreases in capacity with advanced age
 - increases in capacity with advanced age
 - both (a) and (c) above
11. The contents of short-term memory quickly decay unless they are refreshed via the process of rehearsal. Studies of the duration of short-term memory in older adults reveals that decay of memory contents
- occurs in less than 5 seconds
 - occurs in less than 10 seconds
 - occurs in approximately 30 seconds just like young adults
 - takes twice as long in the aged compared to young adults
12. Studies of age-differences in instrumental conditioning found that omission errors among the elderly could be eliminated or reduced by
- using challenging instructions to "motivate" elderly responders
 - differentially reinforcing all responses, even incorrect ones
 - punishing omission errors by withholding reinforcement and/or administering mild electric shocks
 - all of the above
13. When Eisdorfer reduced autonomic nervous system arousal by injecting his subjects with a sympathetic blocker, he found that older learners demonstrated
- improved learning performance
 - no change in learning performance
 - decrements in learning performance
 - increased errors of omission

14. Ross' (1968) study of the effects of supportive versus challenging instructions on learning performance revealed
- a. older adults improved when given supportive instructions
 - b. older adults improved when given challenging instructions
 - c. older adults refused to participate when given challenging instructions
 - d. young adults improved when given challenging instructions
15. Eisdorfer's studies of the relationship between arousal/motivation and performance on verbal learning tasks revealed that
- a. older adults perform more poorly because they are under motivated
 - b. older adults tend to be so aroused that it interferes with their performance
 - c. older adults are no different in terms of arousal, but perform poorly anyway
 - d. young adults tend to be more aroused/motivated than their older counterparts
16. Age-related reductions in base rate responding frequency tend to weaken learning via:
- a. classical conditioning
 - b. modeling techniques
 - c. instrumental/operant conditioning
 - d. visual imagery
17. Studies of the effects of "pacing" on a paired-associated learning task (e.g., Canastrari) revealed that age-differences are minimized when subjects are given
- a. more time to study the to-be-learned material
 - b. less time to study the to-be-learned material
 - c. more time in which to give a recall response
 - d. less time in which to give a recall response
18. When Goodrick gave young and old rats a single-trial exposure to an "error free" T-maze (i.e., wrong-turn doors were locked, preventing errors), he found:
- a. older rats "froze" with indecision
 - b. Young rats failed to successfully negotiate the maze
 - c. young rats learned the maze twice as fast
 - d. older rats learned the maze as well (or better) than young rats when the T-maze doors were subsequently unlocked following the initial trial.
19. When Barrett and Wright had young and older people study YOUNG versus OLD lists of words, they discovered that
- a. older persons remembered more from the old words list than did younger persons
 - b. young persons remembered more no matter how old the words were
 - c. young persons remembered better for the old words than the for the young word list
 - d. older persons remembered more from the young than old words list

20. Studies of classical conditioning using older adults have revealed that
- conditioning is acquired more slowly in the elderly
 - conditioned effects "wear off" more rapidly
 - changes in conditioning may render older persons less susceptible to the development of phobias
 - all of the above
21. Response perseveration (or cognitive "rigidity") in older adults was demonstrated by
- increased duration of visual sensory memory with advancing age
 - Heglin's Water Jug Problem study
 - failure of experimental depth-of-processing manipulations on memory performance
 - Bruce Willis' extraordinary grace under extreme pressure
22. Which of the following symptoms must be present in order to make a diagnosis of dementia?
- apraxia
 - memory impairment
 - aphasia
 - disorientation for time and place
 - all of the above
23. Which of the following has served as the most commonly used test to monitor the progression of dementia?
- Mini-Mental State Exam (MMSE)
 - Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale (WAIS)
 - Wisconsin Card Sorting task
 - Baltes-Schaie Adult Memory Scale (MSAMS)
24. The cognitive impairment criterion for the diagnosis of dementia includes any of the following EXCEPT
- aphasia
 - agnosia
 - impaired executive function
 - hallucinations
 - apraxia
25. Aphasia is a symptom that refers to
- recent memory loss
 - inability to execute skilled motor behaviors
 - inability to recognize visual objects
 - impairment of language skills
26. The Boston Naming Test is a standardized instrument for assessing severity of
- apraxia
 - aphasia
 - executive function
 - agnosia
27. If you needed to assess a potential dementia case for impaired executive function which of the following tests would be most appropriate
- Trailmaking A and B Test
 - Boston Naming Test
 - Clock Drawing Test
 - word fluency test

28. The dominant approach toward developing a treatment and/or cure for Alzheimer's disease during the past 20 years has focused upon an attempt to
- a. develop an approach to reduce people's exposure to aluminum
 - b. explore the possible benefits of anti-viral drugs like those used to treat HIV
 - c. develop medications to reduce the amount of acetylcholine produced in the brain
 - d. develop a technique to interfere with the accumulation of abnormal beta-amyloid proteins in the brain
29. The Mini-Mental State Exam (MMSE) provides a quick assessment of all of the following EXCEPT
- a. working memory
 - b. orientation for time & place
 - c. apraxia
 - d. aphasia
 - e. delirium

QUESTIONS 30 THROUGH 53

For each of the statements made in items 30 through 53, determine which of the following references to dementia is most appropriate:

- A. Alzheimer's disease
 - B. Vascular dementia
 - C. Both Alzheimer's disease and Vascular dementia
 - D. Neither Alzheimer's nor Vascular dementia
30. 4th leading killer of adults (just behind heart disease, cancer and stroke)
31. more likely to occur with a very gradual onset
32. characterized by recent memory impairment
33. onset of symptoms tends to be relatively sudden
34. steady, progressive loss of mental functions
35. uneven, stepwise downward progression
36. symptoms stem from diminished blood-flow to the brain or from the accumulated damage of multiple brain infarctions
37. typical age of onset between 50-70 years, with incidence becoming diminished in later years
38. more likely to occur in females
39. brain deterioration is often localized - rather than pervading the entire cerebral cortex
40. associated with high cholesterol diet, smoking and lack of exercise

QUESTIONS 30 THROUGH 53 (CONTINUED)

For each of the statements made in items 30 through 53, determine which of the following references to dementia is most appropriate:

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- B. Vascular dementia
- C. Both Alzheimer's disease and Vascular dementia
- D. Neither Alzheimer's nor Vascular dementia

- 41. once hypothesized to be caused by slow-acting prion disease
- 42. post-mortem examination reveals the extensive presence of amyloid plaques and neurofibrillary tangles
- 43. symptoms include impairment of cognitive function and difficulty performing tasks of daily living
- 44. brain damage is pervasive rather than spotty or localized
- 45. often diagnosed based upon abnormal brain imaging examinations
- 46. chronic, irreversible disorder
- 47. associated with exaggerated deep tendon reflexes
- 48. involves the death of brain cells
- 49. may involve a loss of brain neurotransmitter known as Acetylcholine
- 50. affects 50% of those over the age of 65
- 51. may be related to excess level of glutamate release in the brain
- 52. likely to occur in persons recently experiencing a stroke
- 53. some believed this disease stemmed from an adverse reaction to metallic toxins, especially aluminum.