

Module 23 Forgetting & Memory Construction

1. How can forgetting be an encoding failure?
2. Explain how encoding failure explains “forgetfulness” in older people?
3. Regarding memory, what is decay?
4. Did Ebbinghaus confirm or reject decay theory?
5. Explain the “forgetting curve” and how it relates to “permastore memory”
6. What accounts for most of our forgetting?
7. What is the term for when one memory gets in the way of retrieving another memory?
8. Give an example of each that is *different* than the examples in the book:

Proactive Interference:

Retroactive Interference:

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9. Explain motivated forgetting and when/why it might occur.

10. Freud used the term _____ to describe motivated forgetting.

11. Scientifically speaking, are we more or less likely to push traumatic experiences out of our memory as Freud describes? Explain.

12. Explain the process of memory construction.

13. Regarding the film of a car accident that Elizabeth Loftus & John Palmer showed their participants, what effect did the wording of questions have on the participants recall of the event?

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14. If you were accused of a serious crime that you did not commit, but there was an eyewitness who claimed they saw you do it, why might you want Loftus to be on your side?

15. What is the dilemma regarding alleged child abuse cases?

16. What are the 2 general principles regarding children's memories?

17. What 3 guidelines should investigators use when questioning children?

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18. Another issue is that of recovered memories. What are the 2 questions regarding this issue? Explain each.

19. Figure 23.8 charts the accuracy of memory. List the 5 components from the chart.

20. Much of this module was about memory construction and its accuracy. Do you trust the accuracy of your memory? Explain.