**PRACTICE ESSAY QUESTION**

**MEMORY**

**Question:**  **(15 marks)**

Jane witnessed a robbery. When interviewed by police half an hour later, she was able to recall many details. However, during the trial three months later, she was not able to recall many details. Discuss Jane’s behaviour in relation to memory.

In your answer, you should:

* define and discuss working (short-term) memory
* define and discuss long-term memory.
* discuss forgetting and remembering.

**ANSWERS & MARKING RUBRIC**

Answers must be in the context of the question.

Working (Short-term) memory:

* Usually up to 30 seconds for short-term memory and up to 30 minutes for working memory
* Also known as primary or active memory
* The information we are currently aware of or thinking about
* The amount of information that can be stored in short-term memory can vary
* Working memory refers to the processes that are used to temporarily store, organise and manipulate information
* Short-term memory, on the other hand, refers only to the temporary storage of Information in memory
* Miller, Hitch, Baddeley, Kahneman, Tversky.

Long-term memory:

* Refers to the continuing storage of information
* Information is largely outside of our awareness, but can be called into working memory to be used when needed
* While long-term memory is also susceptible to the forgetting process, long-term memories can last for a matter of days to as long as many decades
* Declarative (explicit) memory and procedural (implicit) memory

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| **Question 12 Guide to marking extended answers** | **Marks** |
| **Definitions** | **3** |
| Correct definitions are given, with detailed references to relevant psychological concepts, theories and research that describe and explicitly explain what the theory or research contributes to the topic being discussed. | 3 |
| Correct definitions are given, with minimal (one or two), brief and/or inaccurate descriptions of relevant psychological concepts, theories and research. | 2 |
| Contains some generalisations and statements consistent with current psychological understandings **or** definitions are a series of personal opinions. | 1 |
| No definitions. | 0 |
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| **Working (Short-term) memory** | **5** |
| An extended answer with detailed references to relevant psychological concepts, theories and research that describes and explicitly explains what the theory or research contributes to the topic being discussed. | 5 |
| An extended answer with minimal (one or two), brief and/or inaccurate descriptions of relevant psychological concepts, theories and research. | 3–4 |
| Contains some generalisations and statements consistent with current psychological understandings **or** answer is a series of personal opinions **or** produces a short answer with or without making reference to empirical evidence. | 1–2 |
| No answer. | 0 |
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| **Long-term memory** | **5** |
| An extended answer with detailed references to relevant psychological concepts, theories and research that describes and explicitly explains what the theory or research contributes to the topic being discussed. | 5 |
| An extended answer with minimal (one or two), brief and/or inaccurate descriptions of relevant psychological concepts, theories and research. | 3–4 |
| Contains some generalisations and statements consistent with current psychological understandings **or** answer is a series of personal opinions **or** produces a short answer with or without making reference to empirical evidence. | 1–2 |
| No answer. | 0 |
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| **Structure** | **2** |
| A sophisticated, well-written and well-constructed extended answer, using appropriate language of psychology. Sound use of the conventions except where expression is enhanced by defying conventions. | 2 |
| Literacy enables the construction of an extended answer with well developed sentences and paragraphs. | 1 |
| Is unable to express ideas with clarity of meaning **or** answer cannot be understood by the marker. | 0 |
| **TOTAL** | **/15** |