



## Memory 2: types of memory

Module PSYB2

Section B - Cognitive Psychology

3.2.3 remembering and forgetting

### What we will be learning about

The abstract, theoretical models psychologists have of how memory is structured can seem a very long way from our everyday experiences of using our memories. In this topic we will learn about how memory functions on a more 'everyday' level. We will examine the different types of information people store in their memories and have a look at how people organise their memories about themselves, their lives, significant events and the world they live in – what psychologists call autobiographical memory. We will also encounter the case-study method of investigating people and start looking at what we can learn about memory by studying those people whose memories have stopped working properly.

### What you could be tested on

	A01 – knowledge & understanding	A02 – application, analysis & evaluation	A03 – methods, statistics & ethics (how science works)
<b>You must be able to...</b>	<b>Outline</b> the characteristics of episodic, semantic and procedural memory. <b>Describe</b> case study evidence relating to the distinction between different types of LTM (e.g. Blakemore, 1988). <b>Outline</b> the nature of autobiographical memory.	<b>Distinguish</b> between episodic, semantic and procedural memories; autobiographical and other memories.	<b>Define</b> the concepts of internal validity and (external) ecological validity. <b>Outline</b> the case study methodology.
<b>You should be able to...</b>	<b>Describe</b> the components of autobiographical memory (e.g. personal memories, autobiographical facts, generic personal memories). <b>Describe</b> research evidence relating to autobiographical memory e.g. accuracy (Field, 1981); 'flashbulb' memories (Brown & Kulik, 1977).	<b>Analyse</b> examples of memories in terms of the types of LTM represented. <b>Interpret</b> research findings in terms of what they tell us about the existence of different types of memory & the nature of autobiographical memory. <b>Explain</b> difficulties presented by investigating autobiographical memory.	<b>Assess</b> the validity of studies of memory by referring to internal validity/controls and ecological validity. <b>Assess</b> the strengths and weaknesses of laboratory experiments and case studies as methods of investigating memory.
<b>You could be able to...</b>	<b>Explain</b> the relationship between episodic, semantic and procedural memories and autobiographical memory.	<b>Evaluate</b> the usefulness of distinguishing between different types of memory.	<b>Evaluate</b> laboratory experiments and case studies as ways of investigating human behaviour.