

Practice Questions for Exam #2

These questions are meant to serve two functions. First, to serve as a study guide that will help you cover the material that will be included on the exam. Second, they are intended to illustrate the kinds of questions I might ask on an exam so that you won't be surprised by the format.

As always, these are not the actual questions, nor do they play actual questions on TV. But, if you can answer them and intelligently discuss the topics contained therein, you're probably well-prepared for the exam.

1. Explain the difference between sensation and perception. What are the possible results of interfering with each? Are they the same? If not, why not?
2. Describe the structure of the eye, and how its structure and function mimic those of a typical camera. What serves as the "film"?
3. What are the respective roles of rods and cones in vision (ie, what kinds of visual information does each respond to best?)
4. Describe some of the Gestalt principles of organization. What perceptual problems do these allow us to overcome?
5. How do monocular and binocular depth cues allow us to see in three dimensions, despite the fact that the retina is a 2-dimensional surface (it has no depth)? Give an example of an optical illusion that exploits depth cues to create a paradoxical effect.
6. What are the symptoms of visual agnosia, and what area of the brain is typically damaged in visual agnosia?

7. Sketch out the main components of the standard multi-store model of memory (think long-term and short-term memory). What are the primary features of the two major components of this model?

8. Draw a serial position curve, and label the primacy and recency effects. Then, describe how you could interfere with the expression of each effect. Use what you know about the structure of memory to explain the logic you used.

9. Using the standard classifications of memory systems, how do episodic and semantic memory differ from one another? Implicit and explicit memory?

10. Use amnesia to illustrate how neuropsychology can teach us some important things about the structure of the mind. What does this tell us about memory and about general cognitive functioning?