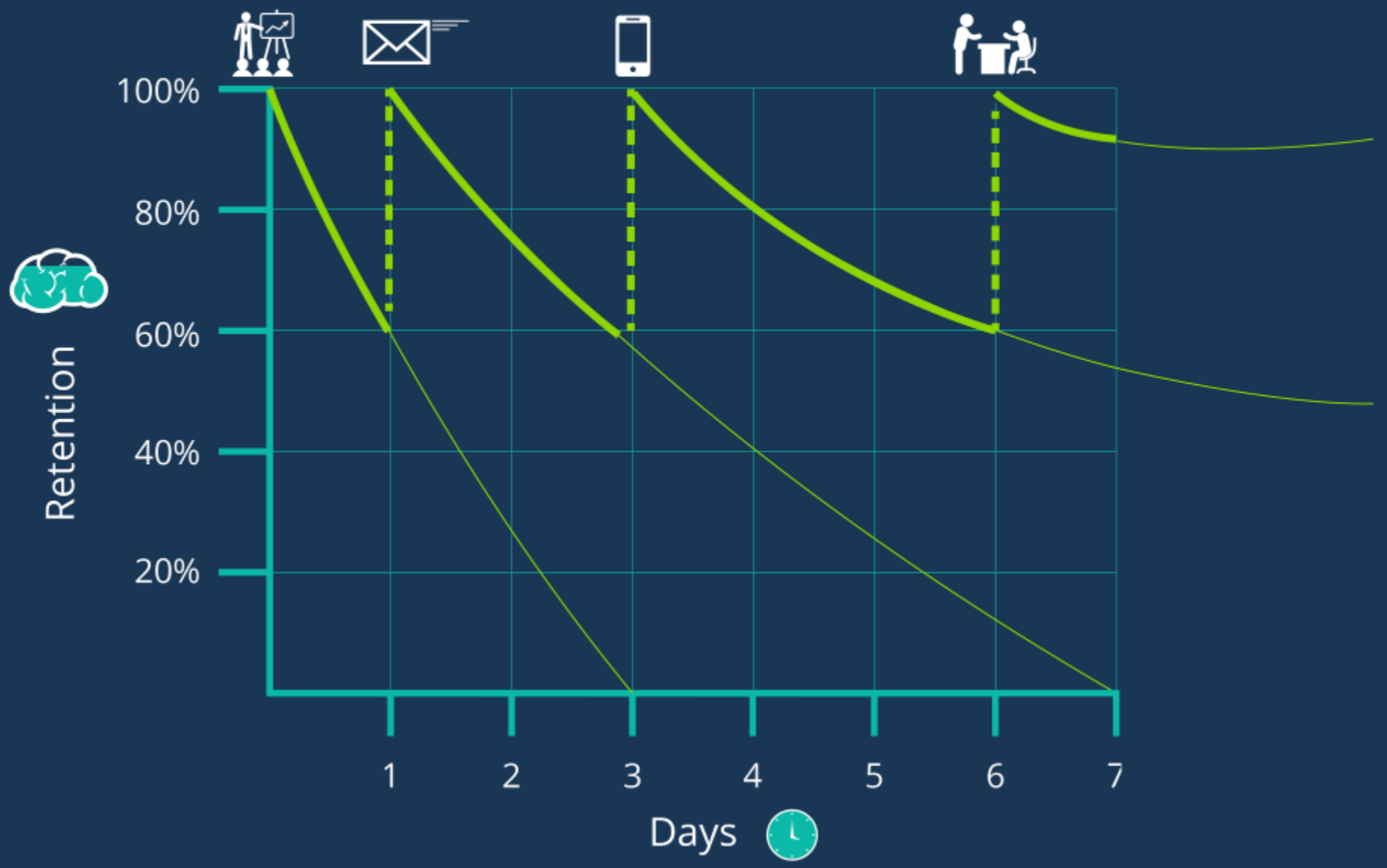
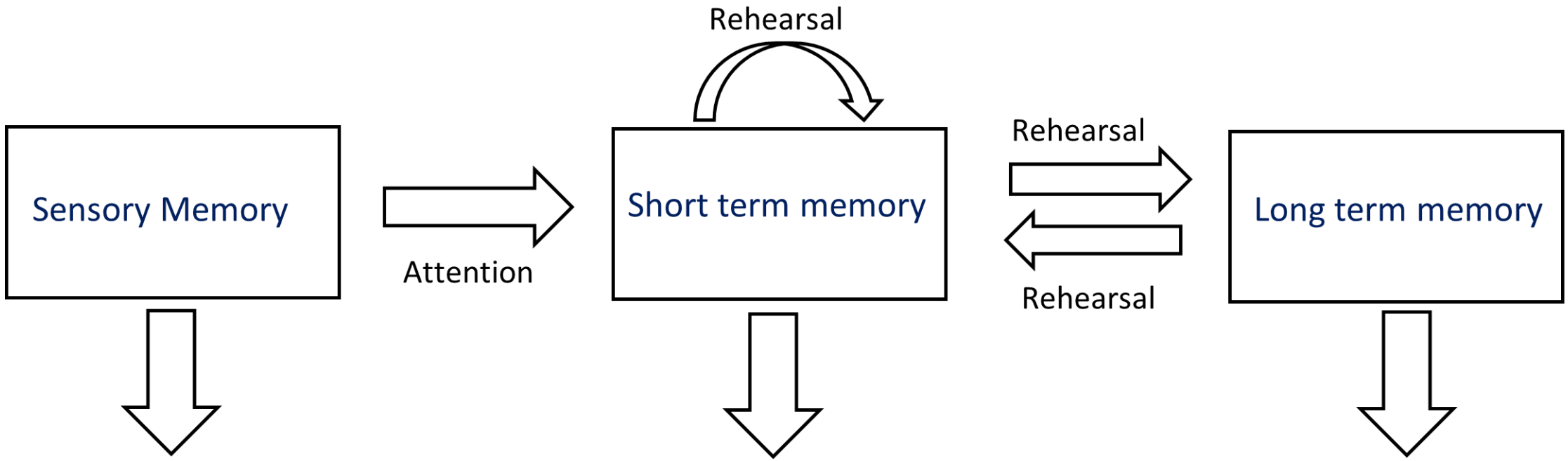
Psychology 7+

General advice

COMBATING THE FORGETTING CURVE

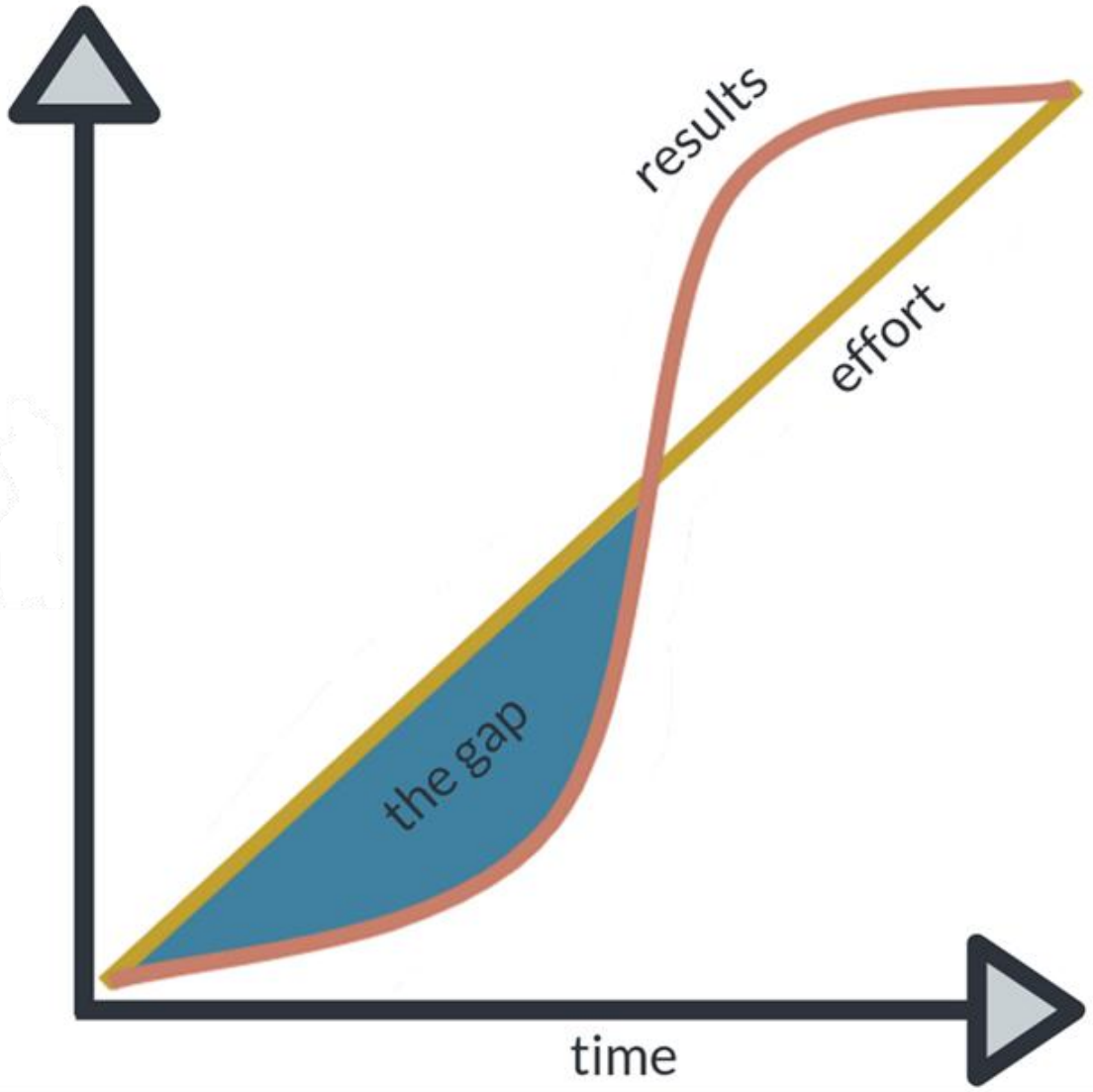




Decay
- memory lost by fading away

Displacement / decay
- memory lost by decay or by recalling a piece of information differently to what it is actually stored as in the memory

Interference decay
retrieval failure
- memory lost by interference / decay. You have forgotten it


results
effort
the gap
time

Basics

- Can I describe the main studies?
- Can I Evaluate the main studies?
- Can I describe the main theories?
- Can I Evaluate the main theories?
- Do I understand and can I recall the key terminology?
- Can I describe research methods and designs?
- Can evaluate research methods and designs?

Focus

- Evaluations
- Synoptic questions

Less “general” evaluation points more specifics

Applicable key words from the glossary

Relevant terminology is used consistently throughout. The answer demonstrates a high level of substantiated reasoning, is clear, coherent and focused.

Evidence – data, specific points with links to the study

Students who have revised consistently and have accurate, detailed semantic memories will write in a clear, coherent and focused way.

Students who cram last minute with no consistency to their approach, will rush to write everything they know, relevant or not, with no clear plan for how they are going to answer the question.

Synoptic questions

Synoptic questions bring together different topics from the curriculum.

They are worth 9 marks. This seems a lot but we can mentally break it down into sections based on the question.

There are 2 Psychology exam papers – Paper 1 & Paper 2

Synoptic questions can bring together topics from different papers.

Example 1

This is an example of a common synoptic questions that combines topics from the same paper (paper 1).

McGarrigle and Donaldson's study features in the Development topic while Research methods is a different topic.

McGarrigle and Donaldson investigated the development of conservation in the 'naughty teddy study'.

Describe this study. — 4 Marks

Evaluate the research method used in McGarrigle and Donaldson's study. — 5 Marks

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Describe — Aim, method, results and conclusion

- Eighty children aged from four to six years were shown two identical rows of counters and were asked whether there were the same number of counters in each row.
- 'Naughty Teddy' then accidentally moved one row of counters so they were more spaced out. Again, the children were asked whether there were the same number of counters in each row.
- Over 60% of the children gave the correct answer that there were the same number of counters in each row. A higher proportion of the older children gave the correct answer compared to the younger children.

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Evaluate	Strengths and weakness

- This was a laboratory-based study under highly controlled conditions.
- Procedures are standardised so the study can be replicated. This means the reliability of the findings can be investigated with different groups of participants.
- Laboratory-based studies often use artificial tasks/materials (such as adults moving counters and asking children questions about this). Because this is not similar to using real-life tasks/real objects, this can reduce the validity of the results.

Example 2

This is an example of a common synoptic questions that combines topics different papers.

Carol Dweck's mindset theory features in the Development topic while Hebb's theory of neuronal growth features in Brain and Neuropsychology.

The psychologist Carol Dweck developed a theory about the way in which our mindset affects learning. Donald Hebb was a neuropsychologist who developed the theory of learning and neuronal growth.

Explain what Dweck means by 'fixed mindset' and 'growth mindset'. ← 4 Marks

Briefly describe Hebb's theory.

Discuss whether or not Hebb's theory supports the idea that having a growth mindset is an advantage when learning. ← 5 Marks

Describe	Describe the main features

'Fixed mindset' and 'growth mindset'

- A growth mindset is the belief that ability and achievement are due to hard work and can be increased through effort. Someone with a growth mindset is more likely to be focused on learning goals and motivated by failure.

Hebb's theory

- During learning, groups of neurons (cell assemblies) fire/act together and if this happens frequently, neural pathways are developed.
- The more we do the task we have learnt, the stronger and more efficient these new neural pathways/synaptic connections become.

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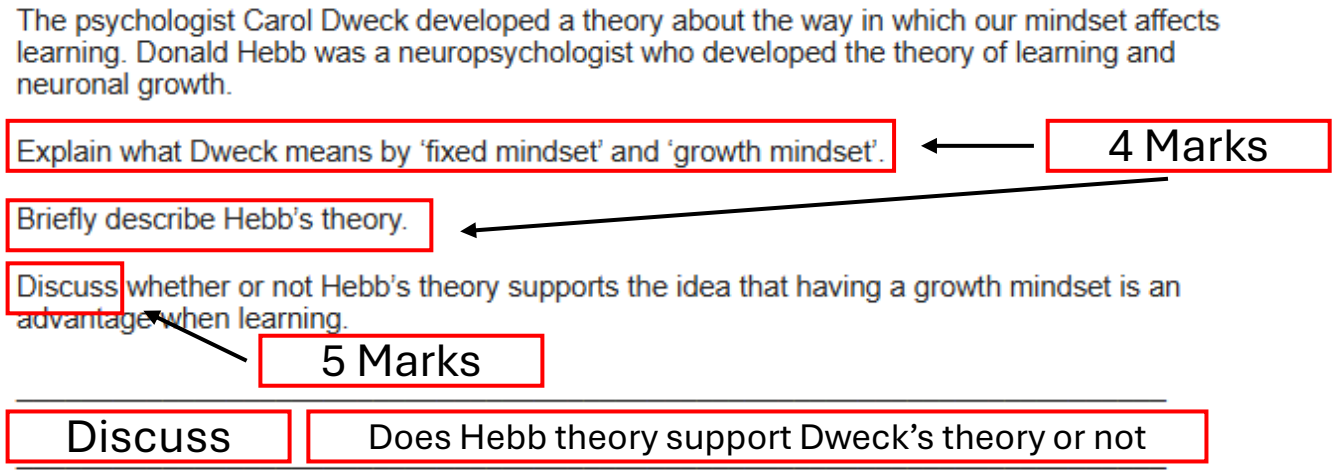

- According to Hebb, because of brain plasticity, we grow new connections in our brains from doing new things.
- A growth mindset means the ability to see that putting in extra time and effort will be worthwhile.
- According to Hebb, putting in more time and effort will result in stronger and more efficient neural pathways/synaptic connections.
- Trying new things will result in new and more efficient neural pathways/synaptic connections. This will in turn lead to higher achievement which will reinforce the growth mindset.

Summary

- Get the basics right
- Be specific
- Use terminology wherever possible
- Break down questions

Revision resources

- Use the revision resources on Satchel:One.
    - Online textbook
    - Psychboost youtube channel
    - Learndojo resources
- Use your free revision guide which has questions for each section, recap questions and practice exam papers.