Scheme of Learning: Memory

Topic Sequence:

1	2	3	4	5	6
Encoding, storage and retrieval	**Multistore model of memory**	**Murdock's serial position curve**	**Reconstructive memory**	**Bartlett's War of the ghosts study**	**Factors effecting memory**

Topic Overview:

The topic of memory serves as an introduction to the brain and its anatomy. As it is the first topic covered in the GCSE Psychology curriculum it is also an opportunity to introduce students to key aspects of assessment such as describing, applying and evaluating studies and theories, whilst also being an introduction to key terminology that students will use throughout. The topic of memory also starts to introduce the idea that what we remember, or experience may not be accurate, a concept that continues in the next topic, perception.

Lesson Sequence:

This topic has been constructed to help students understand how memory works (or, in some cases, doesn't work).

It starts by outlining some key ideas about how memories are made, stored and then retrieved and how our brain changes memories into different forms to aid all three processes. This leads to the Multi-store model of memory which outlines the 3 main memory stores and their main features. This is the first theory that students will come across and so more time is taken to introduce the theory and outline the skills the students are expected to display in assessments. Students will learn to describe the features of the model, to evaluate the model and, in the next few lessons, link the model to other studies in the curriculum. Linking theories and studies early in the curriculum helps students understand how this can be done when evaluating, this skills is repeated throughout the curriculum.
Next the students will learn about Murdock's Serial Position Curve study, the first study the students will encounter. Murdock's Serial Position Curve Study looks at how the position of a word on a list effects the likelihood that it will be remembered. Students will start by conducting a shortened version of the study and compare their results to Murdock's. Students will then learn to describe studies focusing on the aim, method results and conclusion. Finally, the student will get a chance to reinforce their skills in evaluating by applying this skill to a psychological study.
We will then move onto the next study, Bartlett's "war of the ghosts" study. After conducting our own version of the study, we will practice the main exam skills of describe and evaluate. Bartlett's study focuses on how much of events and stories we remember in detail and how much we elaborate "after the fact" by drawing on our previous experience. This leads us to look at Bartlett's theory of reconstructive memory in more detail. We will then take the opportunity to work on the apply skill by looking at witness statements, identifying why people might describe key features of the same event differently.
The top ends by looking at the ways our memories can be altered. We will look at context, interference and false memories.

Sequence of Lessons:

1	Topic intro – Knowledge map & study guide
2	Encoding, storage and retrieval
3	Long-term memory
4	The Multi-store model of memory
5	Murdock's serial position curve study
6	Describing Murdock's serial position curve study
7	Evaluating Murdock's serial position curve study
8	Describing Bartlett's war of the ghosts study
9	Evaluating Bartlett's war of the ghosts study
10	Reconstructive memory
11	Interference
12	Context
13	False memories
14	Revision
15	Revision
16	End of topic test

Topic Resources:

Knowledge Map:	Memory	**Any other Resources:**	Memory study guide

Assessment:

Knowledge:	Mid topic 20Marks End of topic 20Marks Assessment - 7marks
Application of Knowledge:	Longer written apply questions as part of end of topic assessment - 26marks

Supportive Reading:

Murdock's serial position curve study	How does the position of a word on a list effect the likelihood of it being remembered and how does this then link to short-term and long-term memory
Bartlett's "War of the Ghosts" study	How much of a story do we remember accurately and what strategies to we use make sense of an incomplete memory.
Bartlett's Theory of Reconstructive Memory	How do we remember the meaning of events versus the events themselves and how can memory of an event be influenced or changed.