COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY · IAL WPS01 · A LEVEL 9PS0

The Working Memory Model

Page 1: fill it in from memory. Page 2: check your answers.

Fill in the components

Central _____

Role:

Phonological _____

Holds:
Two parts:

Episodic _____

Added in: _____

Visuo-spatial _____

Holds:
Two parts:

Component	What it does	Capacity / limit
Central executive		
Phonological loop		
Visuo-spatial sketchpad		
Episodic buffer		

Dual-task: explain why

Why is it hard to read while repeating “the, the, the”, but easier to track a moving dot while describing a picture?

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COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY · ANSWER PAGE

The Working Memory Model: Answers

Baddeley and Hitch (1974); episodic buffer added by Baddeley (2000).

Central executive

Directs attention; coordinates slave systems; very limited capacity; no storage

Phonological loop

Sound · phonological store (inner ear) + articulatory process (inner voice) · about 2 seconds of speech

Episodic buffer

Added 2000 · combines information from the other systems and links to LTM · about 4 chunks

Visuo-spatial sketchpad

Visual and spatial · visual cache + inner scribe · about 3–4 objects

Dual-task performance

Two tasks using the **same** component interfere (reading + "the, the, the" both use the phonological loop). Two tasks using **different** components can be done together (a visual task + a verbal task). This supports separate slave systems, which the multi-store model cannot explain.

Exam check: for a "describe" question give the **function** and the **limit** of each component. If the question asks about the original 1974 model, leave out the episodic buffer.

Evaluation points

- **Strength:** dual-task studies support separate components.
- **Strength:** case studies such as KF (impaired verbal STM but intact visual STM) support separate stores.
- **Weakness:** the central executive is vague and hard to measure directly.

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