

9.10/9.100 REVIEW QUESTIONS

Effects of Aging on Memory

1. Are different kinds of memory differentially affected by aging?
2. What neuropathological changes in the aging brain may underlie memory impairment?
3. Is performance on nondeclarative measures of memory stable across age, or is there an age-related decrement on these measures?
4. Are effects of age on nondeclarative measures of memory, if they exist, equal in magnitude for item priming and associative priming?
5. Are particular classes of nondeclarative tasks, such as word stem completion priming, more susceptible to aging than others?
6. Is there a relation between hippocampal volume and memory test performance?
7. What neurotransmitter changes could contribute to the memory deficits in older people?
8. What is metamemory, and is it affected by aging?
9. Does the capacity of working memory change with age?
10. Is hippocampal cell death a myth?
11. What is the cause of source amnesia in older people?
12. How would you figure out whether a case of memory impairment was due to a problem with acquisition (encoding the information) or a problem with retrieval? (Hint: check Huppert article)
13. What is the evidence in support of either an acquisition or a retrieval deficit when memory impairment is observed in the elderly? In Alzheimer's-type dementia?
14. How are Alzheimer's-type dementia and "normal" aging similar? How are they different?