

NCERT Notes Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6, 2026-27

Chapter Scope and Revision Focus

Source: NCERT Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6 Human Memory, Reprint 2026-27.

Key point	NCERT anchor
Human Memory explains how information is encoded, stored, retrieved and sometimes forgotten.	NCERT Review Q1 to Q3 overview
The chapter covers stage model, working memory, levels of processing, LTM types, forgetting and mnemonics.	NCERT Review Q1 to Q3 overview
Official anchor for this topic block.	Anchor: NCERT opening page, contents and learning outcomes.

Revision cue: define the term, name the model or theory, then add one NCERT example.

NCERT Notes Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6, 2026-27

Memory as a Cognitive Process

Source: NCERT Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6 Human Memory, Reprint 2026-27.

Key point	NCERT anchor
Memory preserves personal identity, relationships, problem solving and decision making.	NCERT Introduction
Psychologists study how information enters memory, stays there and becomes available later.	NCERT Introduction
Official anchor for this topic block.	Anchor: NCERT Introduction and Ebbinghaus research.

Revision cue: define the term, name the model or theory, then add one NCERT example.

NCERT Notes Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6, 2026-27

Encoding, Storage and Retrieval

Source: NCERT Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6 Human Memory, Reprint 2026-27.

Key point	NCERT anchor
Encoding records incoming information and gives it meaning.	NCERT Review Q1
Storage retains encoded information over time.	NCERT Review Q1
Retrieval brings stored information back to awareness for use.	NCERT Review Q1
Official anchor for this topic block.	Anchor: Nature of Memory.

Revision cue: define the term, name the model or theory, then add one NCERT example.

NCERT Notes Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6, 2026-27

Memory Failure Points

Source: NCERT Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6 Human Memory, Reprint 2026-27.

Key point	NCERT anchor
Forgetting may happen because encoding was weak, storage was poor or retrieval failed.	NCERT Review Q1
This three-stage logic is useful for most short-answer questions.	NCERT Review Q1
Official anchor for this topic block.	Anchor: Nature of Memory closing paragraph.

Revision cue: define the term, name the model or theory, then add one NCERT example.

NCERT Notes Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6, 2026-27

Information Processing Approach

Source: NCERT Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6 Human Memory, Reprint 2026-27.

Key point	NCERT anchor
The computer analogy helped psychologists view memory as an information-processing system.	NCERT Review Q2
Human memory registers, stores, manipulates and uses information according to the task.	NCERT Review Q2
Official anchor for this topic block.	Anchor: Information Processing Approach and the Stage Model.

Revision cue: define the term, name the model or theory, then add one NCERT example.

NCERT Notes Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6, 2026-27

Stage Model Overview

Source: NCERT Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6 Human Memory, Reprint 2026-27.

Key point	NCERT anchor
Atkinson and Shiffrin proposed sensory memory, short-term memory and long-term memory.	NCERT Fig. 6.1
Information moves through attention, rehearsal, chunking and elaborative rehearsal.	NCERT Fig. 6.1
Flow: sensory memory moves to STM through attention, then STM moves to LTM through elaborative rehearsal.	NCERT Fig. 6.1
Official anchor for this topic block.	Anchor: Fig. 6.1 Stage Model of Memory.

Concept map

System	Capacity	Duration	Control process
Sensory memory	Large	Less than 1 second	Attention
Short-term memory	Small, 7 plus or minus 2	Less than 30 seconds	Maintenance rehearsal, chunking
Long-term memory	Vast	Lifetime	Elaborative rehearsal

Revision cue: define the term, name the model or theory, then add one NCERT example.

NCERT Notes Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6, 2026-27

Sensory Memory

Source: NCERT Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6 Human Memory, Reprint 2026-27.

Key point	NCERT anchor
Sensory memory has large capacity but lasts for less than one second.	NCERT Review Q2
Iconic memory stores visual traces and echoic memory stores sound traces.	NCERT Review Q2
Official anchor for this topic block.	Anchor: Sensory Memory subsection.

Revision cue: define the term, name the model or theory, then add one NCERT example.

NCERT Notes Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6, 2026-27

Short-term Memory

Source: NCERT Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6 Human Memory, Reprint 2026-27.

Key point	NCERT anchor
Short-term memory holds limited information for about thirty seconds or less.	NCERT Review Q2
NCERT gives STM capacity as 7 plus or minus 2 chunks.	NCERT Review Q2
Atkinson and Shiffrin treated STM coding as mainly acoustic, or sound-based.	NCERT Review Q2
Maintenance rehearsal keeps information active through repetition.	NCERT Review Q2
Official anchor for this topic block.	Anchor: Short-term Memory subsection.

Revision cue: define the term, name the model or theory, then add one NCERT example.

NCERT Notes Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6, 2026-27

Long-term Memory

Source: NCERT Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6 Human Memory, Reprint 2026-27.

Key point	NCERT anchor
Long-term memory has vast capacity and stores information for a long duration.	NCERT Review Q2
It is mainly semantic, so meaning is central to retention.	NCERT Review Q2
Official anchor for this topic block.	Anchor: Long-term Memory subsection.

Revision cue: define the term, name the model or theory, then add one NCERT example.

NCERT Notes Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6, 2026-27

Working Memory

Source: NCERT Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6 Human Memory, Reprint 2026-27.

Key point	NCERT anchor
Baddeley described short-term memory as an active work bench.	NCERT Box 6.1
Its components include phonological loop, visuospatial sketchpad and central executive.	NCERT Box 6.1
Official anchor for this topic block.	Anchor: Box 6.1 Working Memory.

Revision cue: define the term, name the model or theory, then add one NCERT example.

NCERT Notes Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6, 2026-27

Control Processes

Source: NCERT Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6 Human Memory, Reprint 2026-27.

Key point	NCERT anchor
Selective attention moves selected information from sensory register to STM.	NCERT Review Q3
Maintenance rehearsal, chunking and elaborative rehearsal decide how far information travels.	NCERT Review Q3
Official anchor for this topic block.	Anchor: Control processes after Box 6.1.

Revision cue: define the term, name the model or theory, then add one NCERT example.

NCERT Notes Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6, 2026-27

Chunking and Capacity

Source: NCERT Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6 Human Memory, Reprint 2026-27.

Key point	NCERT anchor
Chunking groups separate items into meaningful units.	NCERT Activity 6.1
It expands the 7 plus or minus 2 STM capacity by turning many items into fewer chunks.	NCERT Activity 6.1
The NCERT date example groups 194719492004 as 1947, 1949 and 2004.	NCERT Activity 6.1
Official anchor for this topic block.	Anchor: Activity 6.1 and chunking paragraph.

Revision cue: define the term, name the model or theory, then add one NCERT example.

NCERT Notes Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6, 2026-27

Elaborative Rehearsal

Source: NCERT Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6 Human Memory, Reprint 2026-27.

Key point	NCERT anchor
Elaborative rehearsal links new information with existing knowledge in LTM.	NCERT Review Q3
More associations usually mean stronger retention.	NCERT Review Q3
Official anchor for this topic block.	Anchor: Elaborative rehearsal paragraph.

Revision cue: define the term, name the model or theory, then add one NCERT example.

NCERT Notes Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6, 2026-27

Limits of the Stage Model

Source: NCERT Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6 Human Memory, Reprint 2026-27.

Key point	NCERT anchor
Some findings support separate stores, while others question the model.	NCERT Stage Model discussion
KF's case showed damaged STM with intact LTM, which challenged the simple pathway.	NCERT Stage Model discussion
Official anchor for this topic block.	Anchor: Shallice and Warrington case.

Revision cue: define the term, name the model or theory, then add one NCERT example.

NCERT Notes Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6, 2026-27

Levels of Processing

Source: NCERT Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6 Human Memory, Reprint 2026-27.

Key point	NCERT anchor
Craik and Lockhart argued that memory depends on depth of processing.	NCERT Review Q4
Structural and phonetic processing are shallow, while semantic processing is deep.	NCERT Review Q4
Official anchor for this topic block.	Anchor: Levels of Processing section.

Concept map

Structural	Shallow
Phonetic	Middle
Semantic	Deep

Revision cue: define the term, name the model or theory, then add one NCERT example.

NCERT Notes Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6, 2026-27

Semantic Encoding

Source: NCERT Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6 Human Memory, Reprint 2026-27.

Key point	NCERT anchor
Information remembered through meaning lasts longer than information learnt by shape or sound alone.	NCERT Review Q4
This is why understanding a lesson beats rote memorisation.	NCERT Review Q4
Official anchor for this topic block.	Anchor: Levels of Processing implication for learning.

Revision cue: define the term, name the model or theory, then add one NCERT example.

NCERT Notes Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6, 2026-27

Types of Long-term Memory

Source: NCERT Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6 Human Memory, Reprint 2026-27.

Key point	NCERT anchor
Declarative memory stores facts, names and dates.	NCERT Review Q5
Procedural memory stores skills and procedures that are hard to describe fully in words.	NCERT Review Q5
Official anchor for this topic block.	Anchor: Types of Long-term Memory section.

Concept map

Declarative	Facts
Procedural	Skills
Episodic	Events
Semantic	Knowledge

Revision cue: define the term, name the model or theory, then add one NCERT example.

NCERT Notes Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6, 2026-27

Episodic and Semantic Memory

Source: NCERT Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6 Human Memory, Reprint 2026-27.

Key point	NCERT anchor
Episodic memory stores personal experiences and their emotional detail.	NCERT Review Q5
Semantic memory stores general knowledge, concepts and meanings.	NCERT Review Q5
Official anchor for this topic block.	Anchor: Tulving classification.

Revision cue: define the term, name the model or theory, then add one NCERT example.

NCERT Notes Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6, 2026-27

Implicit and Flashbulb Memories

Source: NCERT Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6 Human Memory, Reprint 2026-27.

Key point	NCERT anchor
Flashbulb memories are vivid memories for surprising or arousing events.	NCERT Box 6.2
Implicit memory affects behaviour even when the person is not consciously aware of the memory.	NCERT Box 6.2
Official anchor for this topic block.	Anchor: Box 6.2 Long-term Memory Classification.

Revision cue: define the term, name the model or theory, then add one NCERT example.

NCERT Notes Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6, 2026-27

Methods of Memory Measurement

Source: NCERT Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6 Human Memory, Reprint 2026-27.

Key point	NCERT anchor
Free recall and recognition measure facts and episode-related memory.	NCERT Box 6.3
Sentence verification measures semantic memory through true-false response speed.	NCERT Box 6.3
Priming measures information that people may not report verbally.	NCERT Box 6.3
Official anchor for this topic block.	Anchor: Box 6.3 Methods of Memory Measurement.

Revision cue: define the term, name the model or theory, then add one NCERT example.

NCERT Notes Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6, 2026-27

Nature and Causes of Forgetting

Source: NCERT Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6 Human Memory, Reprint 2026-27.

Key point	NCERT anchor
Ebbinghaus found a sharp early drop in memory, then a much slower decline.	NCERT Review Q6
Forgetting may come from trace decay, interference or retrieval failure.	NCERT Review Q6
NCERT treats forgetting as a normal part of memory, not only a weakness.	NCERT Review Q6
Official anchor for this topic block.	Anchor: Nature and Causes of Forgetting.

Concept map

Trace decay	Unused trace fades
Interference	Learning competes
Retrieval failure	Cue is missing

Revision cue: define the term, name the model or theory, then add one NCERT example.

NCERT Notes Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6, 2026-27

Trace Decay and Interference

Source: NCERT Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6 Human Memory, Reprint 2026-27.

Key point	NCERT anchor
Trace decay says memory traces fade when they are not used.	NCERT Review Q6
Interference says stored associations compete at retrieval time.	NCERT Review Q6
Proactive interference means earlier learning disturbs later recall.	NCERT Review Q6
Retroactive interference means later learning disturbs earlier recall.	NCERT Review Q6
Official anchor for this topic block.	Anchor: Forgetting due to Trace Decay and Interference.

Revision cue: define the term, name the model or theory, then add one NCERT example.

Revision cue: proactive interference moves forward from old learning to new recall. Retroactive interference moves backward from new learning to old recall.

NCERT Notes Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6, 2026-27

Retrieval Failure and Repression

Source: NCERT Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6 Human Memory, Reprint 2026-27.

Key point	NCERT anchor
Retrieval failure happens when stored information cannot be accessed at the right time.	NCERT Box 6.4
Repressed memories are painful memories kept out of conscious awareness.	NCERT Box 6.4
Official anchor for this topic block.	Anchor: Retrieval Failure and Box 6.4 Repressed Memories.

Revision cue: define the term, name the model or theory, then add one NCERT example.

NCERT Notes Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6, 2026-27

Enhancing Memory

Source: NCERT Class 11 Psychology Chapter 6 Human Memory, Reprint 2026-27.

Key point	NCERT anchor
Good memory improves through attention, organisation, imagery and meaningful rehearsal.	NCERT Review Q7 and Q8
Keyword method links a foreign word to a similar-sounding known word, then makes a vivid image.	NCERT Review Q7 and Q8
Method of loci places items along a familiar route, then recalls them by taking a mental walk.	NCERT Review Q7 and Q8
First-letter technique uses initial letters to form a word or sentence, such as VIBGYOR.	NCERT Review Q7 and Q8
Organisation-based mnemonics also include chunking related items into meaningful groups.	NCERT Review Q7 and Q8
NCERT also advises students to minimise interference by avoiding similar subjects in sequence.	NCERT Review Q7 and Q8
Official anchor for this topic block.	Anchor: Enhancing Memory and Mnemonics.

Revision cue: define the term, name the model or theory, then add one NCERT example.