

According to the working memory model (WMM), short-term memory is an active store used to hold information which is being manipulated. Logie (1999) refers to it as the ‘desktop of the brain’- it holds material in our conscious mind long enough for us to manipulate it and use it to make a decision or execute a task. Read the following everyday incident and answer the questions with reference to this model of memory.

It’s the beginning of January and you are at the sales. You walk into a shop and head for the bargain rail. On sorting through it, you see a pair of trousers and a jumper you like. While looking at them, you are making various mental calculations. Can you afford either or both of them (this may involve thinking about what money you have in your bank account or in cash, or when you will next get some money and so on). You will also consider what the clothes will look like ‘on’, how easily they will clean or crease, what other clothes you’ve got to wear them with, how often you will wear them and so on (you can probably think of lots of other such considerations). All of the decisions made before you actually come to a decision to try on, buy, come back later, ask for a second opinion or not to buy the clothes at all!



This is a simple example but it serves to illustrate how many things go through your mind when making an everyday decision.

1. From the account provided, give **two** examples of tasks being carried out by the visuospatial sketchpad. (2 marks)
2. Within this scenario, suggest **one** more task (not mentioned in the script) that the visuospatial sketchpad could be doing. (1 mark)
3. From the account provided, give **two** examples of tasks being carried out by the articulatory loop. (2 marks)
4. Within this scenario, suggest **one** more task (not mentioned in the script) that the articulatory loop could be doing. (1 mark)
5. Give **two** examples of information, from other sources (e.g. LTM or perception) being used by the central executive to help decide whether or not to buy the clothes. (2 marks)