Four Characteristics of Retrograde Amnesia

1. **Variability in temporal extent**
   - temporarily extensive vs. limited
   - e.g., famous faces task, memory for news

2. **Temporal gradient regardless of extent**
   - recent memories more affected than remote (Ribot’s law), “shrinking retrograde amnesia” after posttraumatic amnesia.

3. **Limited to some portion of LTM**
   - retention of remote, “overlearned” information
   - e.g., semantic memory, language, IQ

4. **Memory supporting skilled performance is spared**
   - e.g., mirror-image reading, other implicit memory?

5. **Variability in causes**
   - e.g., closed head injury, Korsakoff’s, Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, Huntington’s, bilateral ECT, anoxia, Encephalitis

**Issues:**
1. Does amnesia affect Encoding, Storage/Consolidation, or Retrieval?
2. Explicit vs. Implicit Memory
3. Declarative vs. Procedural Memory (converging inputs to hippocampus vs. regions engaged in procedural task); episodic vs. semantic?