**Question 1: Explain the role of the conceptualizer in Levelt's model of language production. and how it contributes to the generation and monitoring of messages.**

**Key Answer:** The conceptualizer in Levelt's model is responsible for generating the communicative intention and encoding it into a coherent conceptual plan (preverbal plan). It also monitors what is about to be said and what has been said. Declarative knowledge, including encyclopedic knowledge, knowledge about the situation, and information about the discourse record, is accessed to generate a message. Macroplanning involves retrieving information to express sub-goals, while microplanning divides information into smaller conceptual chunks for propositional shape and perspective.

**Question 2: Describe the process of message formulation in the speech production system, focusing on the role of the formulator and how it transforms the preverbal plan into a linguistic structure.**

**Key Answer:** In message formulation, the formulator activates items in the lexicon based on the preverbal plan to transform it into a linguistic structure. Grammatical and phonological encoding are lexically driven, with lexical access and syntactic procedures applied for grammatical encoding. Lemmas with high activation due to semantic specifications are selected for further processing.

**Question 3: Explain the distinction between modular and non-modular models of language production as discussed in the course of Psycholinguistics.**

**Key Answer:** Modular models of language production postulate encapsulated, specialist modules or processes without interaction among them, leading to unidirectional information flow. In contrast, non-modular models allow for bidirectional information flow and interaction among components. Modular models transmit minimal necessary information between components, while non-modular models advocate for more flexible information exchange.

**Question 4: Compare and contrast the processes involved in literal sentence comprehension and figurative meaning comprehension.**

**Key Answer:** Literal sentence comprehension involves understanding the explicit meaning of language without additional interpretation or inference, relying on the surface-level meaning of words and phrases. In contrast, figurative meaning comprehension requires going beyond literal interpretations to understand intended meanings involving metaphorical, idiomatic, or non-literal expressions based on context, pragmatic knowledge, and cognitive processes.

**Question 5: Describe the key stages involved in auditory language comprehension.**

**Key Answer:** Auditory language comprehension begins with phonological/phonetic analysis to distinguish between words. Syntactic operations then identify lexical status and grammatical categories, allowing initial construction of syntactic structures like noun and verb phrases up to the sentence level. Once the syntactic structure is established, semantic aspects and contextual inferences are evaluated to integrate the overall sentence meaning.

**Question 6: Explain the key principles of the Garden Path Model of sentence processing.**

**Key Answer:** The Garden Path Model suggests we initially attach words to the shortest possible phrase (Minimal Attachment) and delay final interpretation until all words are processed (Late Closure), which can lead to temporary misinterpretations. In "The shooting of the hunters was prohibited," we might initially interpret "shooting" as using a gun, but revise this when reaching "prohibited" as it refers to photography, creating a "garden path" effect.

**Question 8: What are the key factors that affect language comprehension? Provide a brief explanation to each factor.**

**Key Answer:**

**Attention**: Maintaining focus and concentration is crucial for comprehending language. Distractions or lack of attention can hinder the ability to process and understand information effectively.

**Working Memory:** The capacity to hold and manipulate information in the mind is essential for comprehension. Individuals with limited working memory may struggle to integrate ideas and make connections.

**Variability in Language:** The complexity and variability of language, such as unfamiliar vocabulary or ambiguous references, can pose challenges for understanding the intended meaning.

**Context:** The surrounding circumstances and background information provide meaning and clarity. Unclear context or mismatch between context and language can hinder comprehension.

**Individual Differences:** Factors like prior knowledge, vocabulary, and reading strategies can vary among individuals, significantly impacting their ability to comprehend language.