

Psychology Induction Work

This work must be completed by and handed in during your first psychology lesson in September.

Your task will be to replicate well-known memory research by Peterson and Peterson.

Peterson and Peterson investigated the duration (length of time) of short-term memory.

Materials:

10 x trigram cards. Trigrams = 3 random consonants. E.g. YCG. Create 10 cards with 10 different trigrams.

10 x three-digit number cards. E.g. 271. Create 10 cards with 10 different three-digit numbers.

Stopwatch.

Paper (lined and graph/Excel) and pen.

Procedure:

- Recruit between 5 to 10 participants (all older than 12-years-old [if under 16, gain parental/guardian consent]).
- Do a trial run (pilot study) to check your procedure.
- Work with one participant at a time.
- Show them a trigram card. Remove the trigram card.
- Show them a three-digit number card.
- Start the stopwatch. Participant counts backwards from three-digit number in threes. (This stops them from rehearsing the trigram in their head or out loud.)
- After 3 seconds, stop the stopwatch. Participant recalls diagram.
- Record whether they correctly or incorrectly recalled the trigram.
- Repeat, increasing by 3 second increments, until they can't correctly recall the trigram accurately.

Participant number	3 seconds	6 seconds	9 seconds	12 seconds	15 seconds	18 seconds	21 seconds	24 seconds	27 seconds	30 seconds	

Tasks:

- Draw a suitable graph of your results. Here is a graph of Peterson and Peterson's results. Note: x-axis = time interval. Y-axis = % of ppts correct
- Draw a conclusion from your findings – what do your findings suggest about the duration of short-term memory.
- How do your findings compare to Peterson and Peterson's?
- Comment on whether you think Peterson and Peterson's findings reflect the way memory works in the real-world.
- How could you have made your results better (more valid and reliable)?

For example, did age have an effect? Did practice have an effect?

Were there any distractions, like noise? Were some trigrams easier to remember than others? Any problems resulting from the counting backwards task? Were intervals 'stretched' by a 'clunky' procedure?

(Aim for 300 words.)

