

**Joseph Banks Secondary College**  
**Year 12 ATAR Psychology**  
**Unit 3 – Assessment Task 2 – Investigation 1**

**Investigation: Factors influencing the retrieval of information from the working memory**

***Information letter***

Dear Student,

As part of this unit on psychology, you will be examining the factors that may have an impact on the ability to recall information from the working memory. Specifically, you will investigate the impact of retroactive interference on your ability to recall a number of words recently stored in your working memory.

Participants in this investigation will be randomly assigned to one of two groups:

- *Control group*: recalling a number of previously learned paired-words
- *Experimental group*: recalling a set of paired-words after experiencing interference

Participants' ability to recall these words will be tested within 5 minutes of first hearing the words. The data collection for this investigation will take place during regular class time.

To safeguard anonymity, students' written responses will be identified by a code number and all individual student data will be shredded at the completion of the unit.

Please ask me if you do not fully understand the information provided or if you would like further information. In understanding what is required of you as a participant in this investigation, you may choose to consent to participate fully in this investigation, in some part of this investigation or not at all. If you decide to participate, please read, complete and sign the attached consent form.

Your parent or guardian must also provide consent for your participation in this investigation. If they agree, please ask them to also sign the provided consent form.

Even if you have signed the consent form, you may withdraw from this investigation at any time. There will be no consequences if you do not want to participate, or if you initially agree to participate and later decide to withdraw. Your rights and responsibilities are detailed in the consent form.

Please feel free to speak with me if you have any concerns or queries about this investigation or about your involvement in this investigation.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Sarah Davey  
Psychology Teacher

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working memory**

***Informed Consent Form***

Participant's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Investigation title: Factors impacting the retrieval of information from the working memory

Teacher's name: \_\_\_\_\_

I consent to participate in the research investigation named above. The nature of the research, including the procedures, has been explained to me, and is summarised on the information letter I have been given

I give permission for the responsible teacher, named above, to use the outlined investigation procedures with me.

I understand that:

- (a) I am free to withdraw from the investigation at any time. There will be no consequences if I decline to participate or if I initially agree to participate, but later decide to withdraw.
- (b) The investigation is for the purpose of teaching and learning.
- (c) The confidentiality of the information I provide will be safeguarded. Written responses will be identified only by a code number in order to ensure that responses are anonymous.
- (d) There are no known adverse effects of participation in this investigation.
- (e) I will maintain the confidentiality of other participants in this investigation.

**Please return this signed consent form to your teacher.**

**Signed:** .....  
(student)

**Date:** .....

**Students may participate in this investigation only if a parent or guardian completes the following section.**

I consent to the participation of ..... in the above research investigation.

**Signed:** .....  
(parent/guardian)

**Date:** .....