

WEEK 5 MOCK EXPERIMENT – METHOD AND RESULTS

This document includes a correction to the previous version, to include the mean age (and standard deviation) for participants. These details are emboldened below. No other information has been changed.

The following information provides information needed to prepare the Method and Results sections of your Lab Report. Please note that this information has been deliberately written in a less than concise manner because you will need to select the pertinent information and write up the lab report in your own words. You will also need to review other resources in the Task 2 assignment folder, including the Lab Report Guidebook, as well as the Week 5 workshop module.

The 522 students who attended the Week 5 workshop (on campus at either the Sunshine Coast or Moreton Bay, or online) participated in a mock experiment that forms the basis of the Task 2 lab report. Data for 9 of these students was removed due to incomplete information provided. Therefore, the participants who provided data for analysis were 513 students who had attended their PSY101 workshop in Week 5. These students ranged in age from 16 to 66 years, with 415 female, 96 male, and 2 otherwise identified. **The mean age of participants was 24.85 years, with a standard deviation of 10.23.** For this brief lab report, it will suffice to note that the age and gender ratio of each group was very similar.

There were 12 workshops conducted in Week 5 for PSY101 and these workshops were randomly assigned to one of the three groups (4 workshops per group). These groups differed only in the type of notetaking medium that was used (refer to Debrief and Discussion topic in Week 5 workshop slides). Group A used pen and paper. Group B used their personal phones. Group C did not take any notes. **Importantly, when describing these groups in your lab report, you will need to label them in a more meaningful way.**

Please refer to the three sets of workshop slides (one for each group) to gain an understanding of the experiment. You are welcome to scan the QR codes and complete the tasks as many times as you wish to familiarise yourself with the experiment. No data collected outside the Week 5 workshops will be analysed.

The tutors in each workshop introduced the experiment, explaining that it was about learning and memory. (Note: The research question posed, but not covered in the introduction to the experiment, was as follows: People often think that their memory is helped by taking notes, but what way of taking notes is best and is taking notes, in fact, any better than not taking any notes at all?).

Basically, in this experiment, students were presented with a passage of text, which was projected on the screen, and asked to record the text in one of two ways or not take any notes at all. In some workshops, the students were instructed to use pen and paper to transcribe the text, while in other workshops, they were instructed to transcribe the text on their phones. Students in a third set of workshops were instructed not to take any notes and simply read the text presented.

Hence, there are three sets of workshop slides provided in the Week 5 folder; one set for each of these three different groups. Note that the slides after the “thank you” at the completion of the experiment are identical and are relevant only as a guide to help students prepare their method section.

To prepare the Results section of your lab report, you will need to consider the following information.

- The outcome of interest was how well students remembered the information in the passage of text.
- We assessed this outcome by having students complete a short quiz about the passage of text that they had either just read, or transcribed using their phone or pen and paper.
- To answer the questions, the students had to accurately recall the information in the passage of text without the help of any cues.
- Each correct answer to the quiz earned each student 1 point.
- There were 7 questions in the quiz.
- After calculating the number of points earned by each student in each group, we averaged those points across all students in the group to determine the average number of correct responses for each group. We also calculated the standard deviation and report the minimum and maximum scores for each group below.
- In Group A, there were 171 students and their average score was 3 out of 7, with a standard deviation of 1.44. The lowest score in this group was 0 and the highest score in this group was 6.
- In Group B, there were 167 students and their average score was 3 out of 7, with a standard deviation of 1.53. The lowest score in this group was 0 and the highest score in this group was 6.
- In Group C, there were 175 students and their average score was 4 out of 7, with a standard deviation of 1.67. The lowest score in this group was 0 and the highest score in this group was 7.

- In the groups that were required to transcribe the text, it was noted that the majority of students did not complete the entire transcription but they did appear to make a genuine attempt to transcribe the text as instructed, word-for-word, in most cases. (Cases where there was no obvious attempt to transcribe the text correctly were among the 9 removed from analysis, as mentioned above.)