

Memory Span

All answers should be clearly identified (i.e. which question you are responding to) and must be typed. If you choose to do this lab, please hand in a paper copy on the day of the first exam, along with your other chosen lab assignment.

Section One

Please answer all of the following questions

1. Describe three ways this task could be made easier so your memory span would become longer.
2. Explain how memory span might be based on “verbal processes”. (Hint: for sound-alikes or longer words, the memory span goes down).
3. Why do you think that memory span might be related to reading and problem solving?
4. Using the group mean length of the last sequence for each stimulus type (in the data provided), decide if the data confirms the effect of stimulus type on memory span discussed in the experiment.

Section Two

Please choose two of the three questions to answer.

1. Suggest some ways to increase memory span.
2. Discuss why there is so much variability in memory span.
3. Memory span capacity limits affect the work that working memory does. Discuss some of the effects on working memory.

Group Data for Memory Span

Data summary

Data summary for experiment Memory span Jun 12, 2003 12:40:14 PM

The list lengths of the last trial for different types of items. This is an estimate of your memory span for the different types of stimulus items.

Results are based on data from 9 participants.

Item type Final list length

Numbers 6.7

Letters that sound different 6.3

Letters that sound similar 5.0

Short words 6.3

Long words 5.0