

Candidate 2 evidence

	Higher Human Biology Assignment
	The Serial Position Effect
	Aim: to examine the roles of the STM and the LTM in the Serial Position Effect.
	Underlying Biology
	The Serial Position Effect is a common phenomenon which was first noticed by German psychologist Hermann Ebbinghaus in the early 20th century.
	This effect can be fully observed by involving a group of individuals who have to remember as many of the shown words/items as possible. This effect would usually cause the first few and last few items to be remembered, but those in the middle would be forgotten by the group.
	This effect is separated into 3 stages/3 smaller effects, these are the Primacy Effect (responsible for the first few items to be recalled), the Intermediate (responsible for the middle items to be forgotten) and the Recency Effect (responsible for the last few items to be recalled).
	The LTM (Long-term memory) can hold substantial amounts of information and it is thought to have an unlimited capacity. This unique and strong function of this system allows the first few items to be recalled through the processes of rehearsal and chunking. Rehearsal is the storing of information through repetitive and frequent techniques. Chunking is the remembering of information through breaking down that information into smaller and more manageable parts.
	The STM (Short-term memory) has a finite capacity and can hold between 5 to 9 pieces of information at one time.

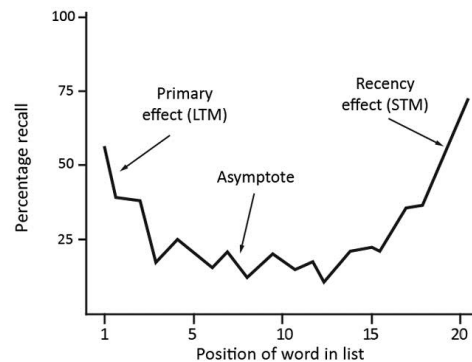
The function of the STM causes the last few items to be recalled.

The STM also causes the Intermediate phase in the middle. The items in the middle are attempted to be remembered by the STM, but the sheer number of items makes this task extremely difficult, therefore they are forgotten.

Description of Experiment

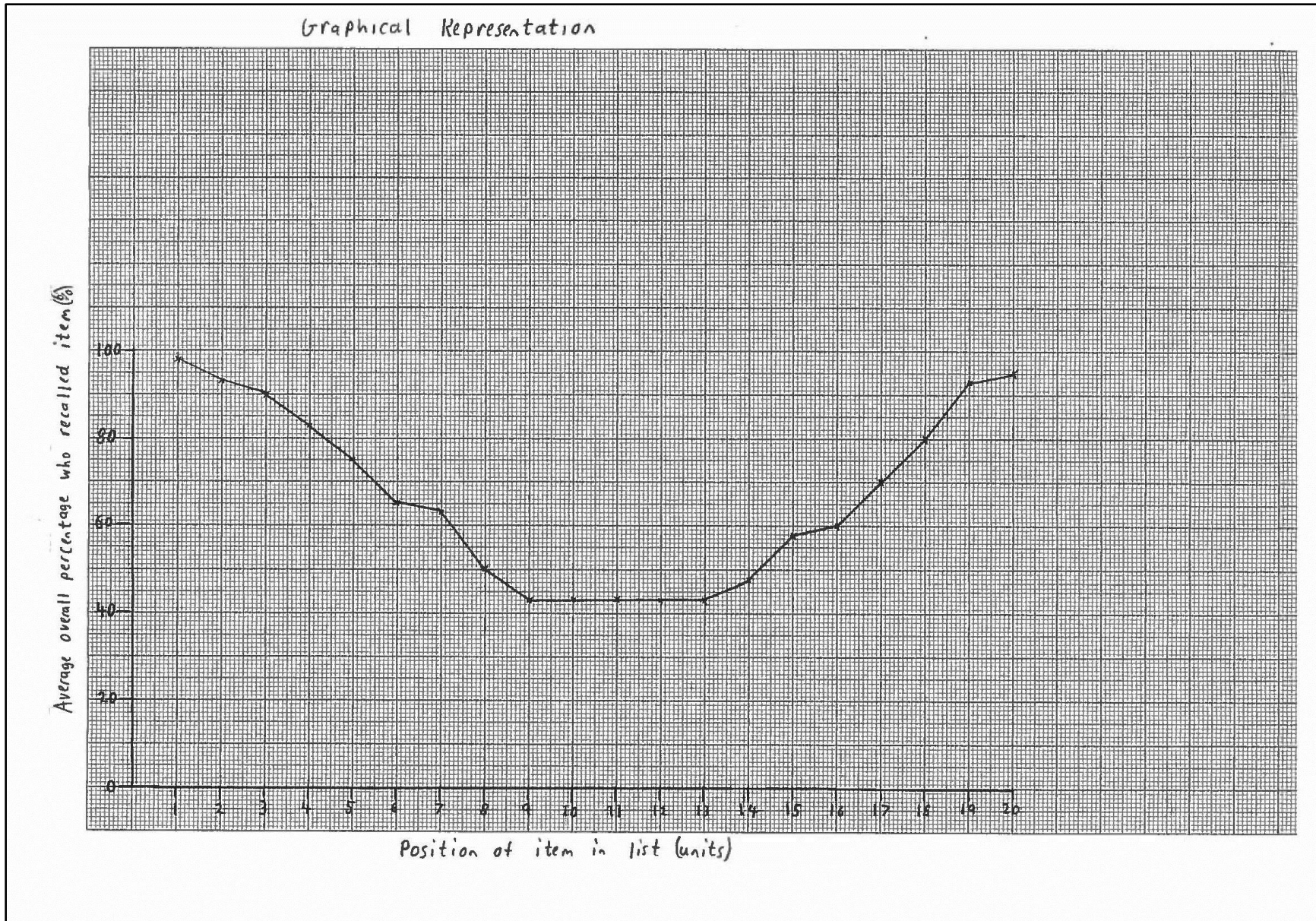
This description involved a group of only 16 year olds who were given a minute to write down the remembered items.

The dependent variable in this experiment was the number of items while the independent variable was the number of people.



02/03/2019 <https://www.simplypsychology.org/primacy-recency.html>

Experimental Data				
Position of item in list (units)	Number of people who recalled item (x/20)		Average overall percentage who recalled item (%)	
	Group 1	Group 2		
1	19	20	98	
2	17	20	93	
3	18	18	90	
4	16	17	83	
5	13	17	75	
6	11	15	65	
7	12	14	63	
8	8	12	50	
9	7	10	43	
10	7	10	43	
11	8	9	43	
12	6	11	43	
13	7	10	43	
14	10	9	48	
15	14	9	58	
16	11	13	60	
17	15	13	70	
18	17	15	80	
19	18	19	93	
20	18	20	95	



Relevant Internet Source

Website Reference: <https://www.simplypsychology.org/primacy-recency.htm>
Date accessed: 02/03/2019

This source can be found at the end of this report.

Analysis

Despite my results including items and the internet source including words, both show a decrease in recalled items from item/word 9 to item/word 13.

Both results show this decrease, but the internet source shows a fluctuation in certain words between 9 and 13 but my results shows a constant and even recalling.

Evaluation

A 5 second, manual timer was used instead of a 5 second, automatic timer, as a result of the automatic timer not functioning correctly on the powerpoint. The use of this manual timer may have reduced the reliability of the results, as the individual may have had less than the 5 seconds of original time period between items to recall that item.

The individuals involved in this experiment were only of a certain age (16 years old). This factor allows the results of this experiment to be more accurate as factors such as memory loss etc. associated with aging are removed from the experiment

The experiment was done by large groups simultaneously, and

was not done by each individual at once. Allowing these groups participating at once may have affected the reliability of the results as these individuals may have shared answers and cheated, which I highly suspect occurred.

Conclusion

The roles of the STM and LTM cause the Primacy and Recency effects in The Serial Position Effect.

The first few items are remembered due to the LTM's processes of chunking and rehearsal and the items in the middle are forgotten due to the finite capacity of the STM.

The unique functions and capacities of the STM and LTM are the only reason why the phenomenon of The Serial Position Effect fully occurs in this manner.

Relevant Internet Source

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