

Candidate 1 evidence

Ethics

One ethical concern which was taken into consideration for this experiment was that no psychological harm came to the participants. Before participating in the word task the participants were given a briefing form and a verbal briefing about what the experiment would entail, the briefing form stated that this was not a test of intelligence and no judgement would be passed based on how many words they managed to recall. This ensured that the participants would feel relaxed about the task and not feel pressured to perform to a high standard. Names of participants were not written on the word recall sheet so that the participants would not feel worried about possible ridicule if they struggled to recall many words meaning the participants did not come to any harm whilst taking part.

Another ethical concern which was taken into account was to ensure all data collected from the participants was kept confidential. This was done by having no name on the word recall sheet meaning the amount of words recalled is not associated with a particular participant. The participants had recorded the number of hours they had slept prior to the experiment and this was collected to allocate the participants into the correct group. Data was also protected by referring to participants by numbers on the results (participant 1, participant 2 etc) meaning no names were revealed through the results. Whilst signatures were on the consent forms these were entirely separate from results so no names were associated with specific numbers of words recalled.

This experiment also stayed within the guidelines of the British psychological society as all participants were over the age of 16 meaning they were able to provide full consent to take part, after taking part a debriefing sheet was given to each participant that stated any participant could withdraw their data from the experiment at any time which ensured correct following of ethical guidelines.

Candidate 2 evidence

Ethics

During this research experiment, ethical guidelines were maintained. All participants were briefed which ensured that they were aware of all that was going to take place. It was also confirmed to them that all details and information in this study was kept strictly confidential. The participants were given clear instructions and a consent form, so they were fully aware of what they were partaking in. The use of the consent form was evidence to show that the age of the participants met with the ethical guidelines. They were protected from harm as they were reassured that this was not any sort of intelligence test, so they did not feel less smart. To protect them also, they were all reassured that this information would be kept private in case they were concerned that their results were going to be shared with others. There was no deception involved with this experiment due to the previous estimates being real.

Candidate 3 evidence

Ethics

To stick to the BPS ethics code of conduct the research team created a consent form to make sure the participants were over the age of 16 and willing to participate while also letting them know that they can withdraw themselves and their data at any point during or after the experiment. The research team also verbally reminded the participants that they can withdraw at any point.

For confidentiality, all data of the participants' identities were kept anonymous, such as their names and the name of the school the experiment was carried out on.

After the experiment the participants were given a debrief form to inform them about the study and to tell them that conformity is normal and if you conformed or not isn't nothing to be ashamed about, it also said that if they had any questions about the study then they can contact the psychology department. However, because the experiment was guessing the sweets in a jar it was a lighthearted task and it's not likely to offend anyone.

Candidate 4 evidence

Ethics

The British Psychological Society's code of conduct was followed when carrying out this experiment.

One ethical concern was ensuring the participants' confidentiality. Measures were put in place throughout the experiment to make sure the participants' answers were anonymous. When the participants submitted their estimates on how many sweets were in the jar, there was no information on who the participant was except for their signature on the consent form, which was kept separate from the results. This meant that it wasn't known what the participants' estimate was and no one could see each other's estimates as the participants entered one at a time to ensure confidentiality. Therefore, this stopped the possibility of people being judged and feeling embarrassed by others for their estimates.

Another ethical concern was there was deception as the participants were made to think that the high estimates were real. Half of the participants were given the sheets with the fake estimates so it was vital to make them aware of the deception afterwards. Therefore, the participants had to be fully debriefed using a debriefing sheet handed out after they had taken part so that there was so harm caused by the deception. The participants were also given the opportunity to withdraw if they weren't happy with this and their answer would be taken out of the experiment.