**Notes on information sheet, consent form and debrief documents.**

Across the project, we ran 26 experiments, which were variants of the same basic experimental protocol, involving two stages.

**Phase 1: Study Phase**

Participants studied pairs of items, either simply presented together, or with a pre-test format in which they were first asked to guess what the second part of the pair might be, and then were shown the answer. Across experiments, we varied the nature of the materials to be studied, but it was always one of the following formats:

Semantically related words*: e.g. Bucket – water*

Semantically unrelated words: *e.g. Piano – grass*

Rare English word definitions: *e.g. roke - mist*

Foreign word – English translations. *E.g. Onnellinen – happy*

Rare general knowledge facts: e.g. In which American city was Coca-Cola invented: Atlanta

Face – personal facts: e.g.  *likes cheese*

The specific details of the nature of the materials involved in any given experiment were made explicit to the participants by inserting the relevant description into the generic Participation Sheet and accompanying consent form for that experiment.

**Phase 2: The test phase**

All experiments involved a final test phase for the information that had been studied. The format of the test differed across experiments, taking one or more of the following formats:

Cued recall: *e.g. Bucket - ?*

Recognition: *e.g. Did you study this item: grass?*

Multiple choice recognition: *e.g. What is the meaning of roke? a) Tool, b) Sweet, c) Mist*

Associative recognition: *e.g. Was this a pair that you studied: Onnelinnen – grass*

The specific details of the nature of the test was not explained in the initial brief, so that participants did not alter their study methods, but were explained prior to the test phase.

**Other variations**

A sub-set of experiments involved self-report evaluations such as self-rated judgements of motivation to learn, or surprise in the answer, or judgements of the effectiveness of pre-testing and study as methods for learning. These aspects of the designs were explained to the participants in the initial participation information sheet, and Final debrief sheets as appropriate. The duration of each experiment differed, and the time required for each experiment was provided in the Participant information sheet, as did the details for the remuneration on offer.

PLYMOUTH UNIVERSITY

**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT**

***STUDY TITLE HERE*.**

**Participant Selection and Purpose of Study**

You are invited to participate in a study on learning and memory. You were selected as a possible participant in this study because you represent a typical member of the population.

**Description of Study and Risks**

If you decide to participate, we will ask you to complete a short computer task that involves learning [*DESCRIPTION OF THE MATERIALS HERE*]. Your memory for these [*DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS HERE*] will be tested in a second task. The experiment should take approximately [DETAIL] minutes.

We cannot and do not guarantee or promise that you will receive any benefits from this study.However, you will receive either a course credit or [REMUNERATION DETAIL HERE] for your time.

**Confidentiality and Disclosure of Information**

Any information that is obtained in connection with this study and that can be identified with you will remain confidential and will be disclosed only with your permission or except as required by law. We may publish the results of this experiment in a journal*.* In any publication, information will be provided in such a way that you cannot be identified.

**Recompense to participants**

You will receive either a course credit or [REMUNERATION DETAIL HERE] in exchange for your time (as per the School guidelines).

**Your consent**

Your decision whether or not to participate will not prejudice your future relations with Plymouth University*.* If you decide to participate, you are free to withdraw your consent and to discontinue participation at any time without prejudice.

**Inquiries**

If you have any questions or concerns following your participation, [*RESEARCHER NAME AND CONTACT DETAILS HERE]* will be happy to address them.

If you are dissatisfied with the way the research is conducted, please contact the principal investigator in the first instance [*RESEARCHER NAME AND CONTACT DETAILS HERE*]. If you feel the problem has not been resolved please contact the secretary to the Faculty of Health and Human Sciences Ethics Committee: [*ETHICS ADMINISTRATOR NAME AND CONTACT DETAILS HERE*]

PLYMOUTH UNIVERSITY

**PARTICIPANT CONSENT FORM**

### *STUDY TITLE HERE*

### Nature of study:

The study involves a short computer task where you will learn [*DESCRIPTION OF THE MATERIALS HERE*].

### If you have any questions please ask, otherwise if you are happy to participant please sign below. You have the right to withdraw at any time and your data will be treated as confidential.

### Consent:

I understand that:

* Participation in this study is entirely voluntary and that I can withdraw from the study at any time without giving a reason.
* Non-participation or withdrawal from the study will not be of any disadvantage to my university career.
* I can instruct the researchers carrying out this study at any time to delete data obtained from me from their records.
* I am free to ask any questions at any time and that I can arrange to discuss any concerns with the researchers.
* At the end of the study I will be provided with additional information and feedback about the purpose of the study.
* No data will be published in which I can be identified individually. In accordance with the Data Protection Act, I can have access to my information at any time.
* The data provided by me in this experiment will be used for research purposes only. They will not be shared in any manner which would allow identification of my individual responses.

**Participant number: ………………………….**

**Name: ………………………………………**

**Signature: …………………………………...**

**Date: …………………………………………**

**Debrief**

Thank you for completing the experiment. This experiment aims to explore the way in which people learn and remember new information. In the first part of the task, you were asked to study and remember [DESCRIPTION OF THE MATERIALS HERE]. Sometimes you were asked to simply study [DESCRIPTION OF THE MATERIALS HERE]. Other times you were asked to guess the target word before the correct answer was shown for you to learn. Your memory was then tested [DESCRIPTION OF THE TEST FORMAT(S) HERE].

Previous literature suggests that the way that people learn new information has a profound influence on subsequent memory of that information. Specifically, people tend to remember words better if they have previously incorrectly guessed them, rather than if they have simply studied the words for an equivalent duration. The current research aims to explore this effect further. [ADDITIONAL MATERIAL HERE AS NECESSARY – E.G. IF SELF-REPORT MEASURES USED]

If you have any further questions or concerns, please ask the experimenter now or contact [RESEARCHER NAME AND CONTACT DETAILS HERE].

**We ask that you do not discuss the experiment with anybody else to prevent contamination of the results. Thank you.**