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University of Manitoba and St. Amant Research Centre

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Preface

This manual explains the concept of preference and the importance of preference assessment for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The manual provides step-by-step instructions on how to directly assess preferences using the Multiple-Stimulus Without Replacement procedure. The manual guides the readers through the procedure and promotes learning and practice through exercises after each section.

The manual does not deal with challenging behaviours that may interfere with the preference assessment. Please consult other sources for information on assessment and intervention of challenging behaviours.


What is Preference?

Preference indicates how much we like something. It varies from person to person because everyone’s likes and dislikes may be different. Preference also changes depending on how much of the preferred item or activity we have been receiving. Even if you like eating steak, you may prefer something else for dinner if you ate a huge steak for lunch.

What is a Direct Preference Assessment?

A preference assessment refers to a procedure or set of rules that we follow to find out what a person prefers among several choices. A direct preference assessment means that we present the choices and watch which one the person selects. Asking someone about another person’s preference would be an indirect assessment. Whenever possible, we recommend direct preference assessments because they are more reliable than indirect preference assessments.

Why is Assessing Preference Important?

Assessing the preference of people with developmental or intellectual disabilities is important for several reasons. First, a preference assessment can identify preferred items and activities, which can then be used as rewards to teach other skills. Second, preferred leisure activities can be provided to enrich someone’s life. Third, because preferences change from time to time, assessing them regularly allows us to use the most preferred and strongest rewards possible. Fourth, knowing what a person dislikes is as important as knowing what a person likes, as it allows us to avoid presenting those items.
Part 2: How to Conduct a Multiple-Stimulus-Without-Replacement (MSWO) Preference Assessment

Part 2 of the self-training manual describes the MSWO procedure, which is one way to conduct a preference assessment. This method is both effective and practical. The rules below will guide you step-by-step from start to finish.

Preparing Before an Assessment

Selecting and Arranging the Setting

Individuals with developmental disabilities can be easily distracted by sounds or sights of other activities around them. Therefore, find an area that is relatively free from distractions for your assessment. You will need a table and two chairs so that you and the client can sit at the table facing each other. Have a small table or a third chair next to you for holding the materials (items and the datasheet) that you will be using during the assessment. Putting the materials on a separate table or chair, out of the client’s reach, will prevent the client from grabbing them.

Getting the Materials Ready

Gather six items that you want to assess. We recommend that your items be either all food or all non-food, as opposed to mixing food and non-food items among your options. If you are assessing food preferences, you should have at least four bite-size pieces of each food type for an assessment.

Prepare your datasheet to keep track of the client’s choices by filling in the top part of the datasheet including the client’s identification (name or code), your (tester’s) name, date, and the six items next to the letters A through F in any order as illustrated in the sample on the next page. Place the pen and datasheet on the small table or the extra chair next to where you will be sitting, and then bring the client into the room.
Before beginning the preference assessment, let the client sample each item, one at a time. If you are assessing food preferences, place one piece of food on the table in front of the client and say, “<name>, look”. Once the client has looked at the item, say “Take it” and let the client take and eat the food sample. Wait until the client has finished eating the piece of food, and then repeat this step with another item (in any order), until all six options have been sampled.

If you are assessing non-food preferences (e.g., toys or games), the sampling procedure is the same, except that you will let the client interact with their selection for up to 30 seconds. Afterwards, retrieve the object from the client and present another one. After the client has sampled each item, you are ready to present your first assessment trial.

**Review Exercise 1**

Try to complete the following questions for Exercise 1 without referring to the preceding section.

1. Sampling should be done with the items _______________ instead of sampling them all at once.

2. For a food item, sampling means allowing the client to __________ the food.

3. For a non-food item, sampling means letting the client interact with the item for _____ seconds.
4. An Exercise Datasheet is provided on the next page. Tear the datasheet out of the booklet. Fill in **ONLY** the top portion of the datasheet with the following information: (1) the client’s name is Chris; (2) you are the tester; (3) the date; and (4) the six items to be assessed are puzzle, cards, rattle, magazine, slinky, and massager. For the purposes of this exercise the items should be recorded in the order listed here (e.g., A: puzzle, B: card, etc. Don’t forget the date.

Note: You will be completing the remaining sections of the datasheet in subsequent exercises.
**Exercise Datasheet**

Instruction: Remove the Exercise Datasheet by folding along the dotted line and tear out the datasheet in order to complete the Exercise Review questions in Exercises 1, 5, 6, and 7.

**Multiple-Stimulus Without Replacement Preference Assessment Datasheet**

Client Name/Code: ___________________________   Tester: ___________________________

Date: ___________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>List items below</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>List items below</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td></td>
<td>E</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For each trial, write the letter (A through F) of the item chosen.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trial</th>
<th>Session 1</th>
<th></th>
<th>Session 2</th>
<th></th>
<th>Session 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Item Chosen (e.g., B or Ø if none)</td>
<td>Rank</td>
<td>Item Chosen (e.g., B or Ø if none)</td>
<td>Rank</td>
<td>Item Chosen (e.g., B or Ø if none)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Transfer the “rank” of items from each session above to the table below. Average the rank across the 3 sessions and enter the average in the last column. The item with the highest average rank (smallest number) is the most preferred item.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Rank from Each Session</th>
<th>Average Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Session 1</td>
<td>Session 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Question: Based on the results of the rank for each item, which of the six items is likely to be the most powerful reward? ___________________________
5. Practice the sampling procedure using the items in the bin. Imagine a client sitting across the table facing you. Do the following:

- Place an item in front of the client.
- Say “Look” and wait for the client to look at the item.
- Say “Take it” as soon as the client has looked at the item.
- Give the item to the client and let him/her interact with it (you can help him) for up to 30 seconds.
- Retrieve the item and repeat the process with another item until all six items have been sampled.

See answer key on the next page.
Answers to Review Exercise 1

1. one at a time

2. eat

3. up to 30 seconds

4. Filling in the datasheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>List items below</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>List items below</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Puzzle</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Magazine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Cards</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>Slinky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Rattle</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Massager</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Have you practiced the item sampling procedure for all six items? If not, please go back and practice.

If any of your answers are incorrect, please re-read the appropriate section before moving on in the manual.
Assessment Trials and Session

Presenting Trials

When conducting the MSWO assessment with six items, a session will usually consist of five trials (sometimes fewer than five trials depending on the client’s response), and three sessions are conducted.

On the first trial of each session, place all six items on the table, one at a time and in a row, in front of the client. When introducing each option, hold it in front of the client at eye level and say “Look”. As soon as the client has looked, the item can be placed on the table. Repeat this with each object or piece of food and place it on the table next to the previous item. You can go from your right to left if you are sitting in front of the client and you can introduce the options in any order.

As soon as the last item has been placed on the table, look at the client and say “Pick one”, and wait up to 15 seconds for the client to make a selection. (We’ll discuss what to do after a client has chosen an item later in the manual.)

The rules for presenting each subsequent trial are the same as for the first trial except for two differences. First, the item chosen on the previous trial is not presented again on subsequent trials during that session. Therefore, there will be one less item to present on each trial (e.g., the second trial will have 5 items, the third trial will have 4 items, the fourth trial will have 3 items, and the fifth and last trial of the session will have 2 items). Second, you should change the positions of at least some of the items on each trial. You can do this by arbitrarily moving them around in the row. An easy way to do this is to move the item that was on the far right on the last trial to your far left so that all items will shift to the right by one position.

A session ends after the last trial, containing two items, has been presented. We conduct three sessions, starting with six items on the first trial for each session.

Review Exercise 2

Try to complete the following questions for Exercise 2 without referring to the preceding section.

1. If you’re assessing six items using the MSWO procedure,

   a. What is the maximum number of trials you can have in one session? _______
b. How many items should be presented on the first trial of each session? ________

2. How many sessions should be conducted in an assessment? ________

3. An item that has been selected will ________________ be presented on subsequent trials of that session.

4. When introducing each item, always ask the client to ________________ at each item before putting it on the table.

5. What do you say to the client after all the items have been placed on the table? ______

6. You present a client with the following items in the order listed on the first trial:

   chips   grapes   apple   cracker   chocolate   banana

   a. Let’s say the client has selected the apple on the first trial. List the items you would present on the second trial and their positions below.

       __________  __________  __________  __________  __________

   b. Let’s say the client has selected the banana on the second trial. List the items you would present on the third trial and their positions below.

       __________  __________  __________  __________  __________

   c. Let’s say the client has selected chips on the third trial. List the items you would present on the fourth trial and their positions below.

       __________  __________  __________  __________  __________

   d. Let’s say the client has selected chocolate on the fourth trial. List the items you would present on the fifth trial and their positions below.

       __________  __________

   e. Let’s say the client has selected the cracker on the fifth trial. Do you end the session or do you present the last item? __________________________

7. How much time should be given for the client to make a selection on each trial? ______

   __________

See answer key on the next page.
Answers to Review Exercise 2

1 a. five
1 b. six
2. three
3. not
4. look
5. “Pick one”
6 a. The items on the second trial should include banana, chips, grapes, cracker, and chocolate. The positions of at least one item should be different from the previous trial.
6 b. The items on the third trial should include chips, grapes, cracker, and chocolate. The positions of at least one item should be different from the previous trial.
6 c. The items on the fourth trial should include grapes, cracker, and chocolate. The positions of at least one item should be different from the previous trial.
6 d. The items on the fifth trial should include grapes, and cracker. The positions of the last two items should be different from the previous trial.
6 e. End the session
7. 15 seconds

If any of your answers are incorrect, please re-read the appropriate section before moving on in the manual.
Consequences for Client Responses

We described how to present trials in the above section. Now, we turn to what we should do on each trial after a client has selected an item. So let’s take a look at three common client responses that we may encounter and what we should do.

Client Selects an Item

Once all the items are in front of the client and you have asked the client to “Pick one”, he or she may point to, reach for, touch, or pick up an item. This is counted as a selection. If a client touches two items, one after another, we would count the first item as selected.

As soon as an item has been selected, you should always do four things immediately: praise briefly, provide the selected item, remove all other items from the table, and record the data. First, a brief statement of praise (e.g., “Good”) should follow the selection. Second, give the item to the client. Third, remove all other items from the table (place them on the chair beside you). If the chosen item is food, the client is allowed to eat it. If the chosen item is a toy or activity, the client is allowed to interact with it or engage in the activity for up to 30 seconds. You can interact with the client if the activity requires two people or if help is needed with the activity. Retrieve the object after 30 seconds and place it on the chair beside you. Fourth, record the item chosen on the datasheet by writing the letter or the name of the object or food that was selected next to the trial number. After you have done these three things, the trial ends and you can present the next trial.

Review Exercise 3

Try to complete the following questions for Exercise 3 without referring to the preceding section.

1. A client’s selection response may include ________________, ________________, ________________, or ________________.

2. A client touches two items, one after another. Would we consider the first item as selected? Yes or No ______

3. Immediately following a selection response,
   
a. The four things you do immediately following a selection response are:
   
   ________________, ________________, ________________, and ________________.

After a Selection Checklist

- Say “Good”.
- Give the selected item to the client to eat or interact with for up to 30 seconds
- Remove other items from the table.
- Retrieve object after 30 seconds.
- Record the item selected in the datasheet.
b. After you have completed these four things, the trial ______ and you can present the _______ trial.

See answer key on the next page.
Answers to Review Exercise 3

1. point to, reach for, touch, or pick up an item

2. yes

3 a. praise briefly, provide the selected item, remove the other items, and record the data

3 b. ends, next

If any of your answers are incorrect, please re-read the appropriate section before moving on in the manual.
Client Does Not Choose

If a client does not make a selection within 15 seconds after being asked to choose, the trial ends. Repeat your instruction “Pick one” once and give the client another 15 seconds to respond. If the client still does not respond, you will say nothing, remove all items from the table, record a zero (to indicate no response) on the datasheet for that trial, and end the session. There is no need to present the remaining trials of the session if a client does not make a choice. For example, let’s say you’re on the second trial of a session with five items on the table. If the client does not make a selection, even after you have repeated the instruction “Pick one,” the session ends and there’s no need to present the remaining trials. You can now begin the next session, starting the first trial with all six items.

Review Exercise 4

Try to complete the following questions for Exercise 4 without referring to the preceding section.

1. If a client does not make a selection response within ___ seconds after being asked to choose an item, the trial _____.

2. How many times can you repeat your instruction “Pick one” once the client does not respond to your initial instruction “Pick one?” __________

3. If the client does not respond after you have repeated the instruction “Pick one” you will ____________________________, ____________________________, ____________________________, and ____________________________.

4. You are on the third trial of a session with four items on the table and the client does not make a selection even after you have repeated the instruction “Pick one.” Can you end the session? Yes or No ______

See answer key on the next page.

After No Response Checklist

- If the client did not choose an item after 15 seconds, repeat the request “Pick one” once.
- If the client still does not select an item after 15 seconds, the trial ends.
- Say nothing, remove all items, record a zero on the datasheet, and end the session.
Answers to Review Exercise 4

1. 15, ends

2. once

3. say nothing, remove all items from the table, record a zero on the datasheet for that trial, and end the session

4. yes

If any of your answers are incorrect, please re-read the appropriate section before moving on in the manual.
Client Tries to Take More Than One Item

Sometimes you may encounter a client trying to take two or more items at the same time after being asked to choose. This is not counted as a selection and we have to repeat the trial. When a client tries to take more than one item, you should intervene quickly by blocking the client gently, saying nothing (saying “no” is optional), retrieving any items from the client if necessary, removing all items from the table, and presenting the same trial again.

After Client Tries to Take More than 1 Item Checklist
• Block gently and retrieve items if necessary.
• Remove all items from table.
• Repeat the same trial.

Review Exercise 5

Try to complete the following questions for Exercise 5 without referring to the preceding section.

1. A client selects two items at the same time. Is this considered a selection response? Yes or No _____

2. When a client attempts to take more than one item at the same time, you should intervene quickly by doing the following. However, they are not listed in the correct order. Please list them in the correct order on the right.

   Retrieve any items from the client 1. __________________________

   Present the same trial again 2. __________________________

   Remove all items from the table 3. __________________________

   Block the client gently and say nothing 4. __________________________

3. On your Exercise Datassheet (that you tore out from the manual on pg. 7), Sessions 1 and 2 have already been completed. Complete the exercise below for Session 3 based on the client’s responses described.

   a. On Trial 1, the client selected the puzzle. Record that on your Exercise Datassheet.

   b. List the items that should be presented on Trial 2: __________________________

   c. On Trial 2, the client selected the massager. Record that on your Exercise Datassheet.

   d. List the items that should be presented on Trial 3: __________________________
e. On Trial 3, the client selected the *rattle*. Record that on your Exercise Datasheet.

f. List the items that should be presented on Trial 4: __________________________
   __________________________

  g. The client did not select an item on Trial 4 even after it was repeated. Record that on your Exercise Datasheet.

  h. What should be your next step: *Present the next trial* or *End the session*? ______
     __________________________

See answer key on the next page.
Answers to Review Exercise 5

1. no

2. When a client attempts to take more than one item at the same time, you should do the following in order:

   Block the client gently and say nothing (saying “no” is optional)
   Retrieve any items from the client
   Remove all items from the table
   Present the same trial again

3. a. You are correct if you have recorded a letter “A” for trial 1 in Session 3 (see the completed datasheet below)

   b. Cards, rattle, magazine, slinky, and massager

   c. You are correct if you have recorded a letter “F” for trial 2 in Session 3 (see the completed datasheet below)

   d. Rattle, magazine, slinky, and cards

   e. You are correct if you have recorded a letter “C” for trial 3 in Session 3 (see the completed datasheet below)

   f. Magazine, slinky, and cards

   g. You are correct if you have recorded a “zero” for trial 4 in Session 3 (see the completed datasheet below)

   h. End the session

If any of your answers are incorrect, please re-read the appropriate section before moving on in the manual.
Multiple-Stimulus Without Replacement Preference Assessment Datasheet

Client Name/Code: Chris
Tester: [your name]
Date: [today’s date]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>List items below</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>List items below</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Puzzle</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Magazine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Cards</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>Slinky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Rattle</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Massager</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For each trial, write the letter (A through F) of the item chosen.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trial</th>
<th>Item Chosen (e.g., B or Ø if none)</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trial</th>
<th>Item Chosen (e.g., B or Ø if none)</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trial</th>
<th>Item Chosen (e.g., B or Ø if none)</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Ø</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Part 3: What to Do with the Results

Okay, you have conducted 3 sessions. The next step is to rank order the six items from the most to the least preferred. This is a simple process that we do by averaging the rankings across the 3 sessions for each item.

Ranking the Items

Please refer to the example for a client named Marley on the next page while you read this section. The rank of each item obtained in each session is identified in the right hand column. You will notice that the rank is simply the order in which an item was chosen in each session. The first step is to transfer the ranks from each session to the table at the bottom of the datasheet.

Let us review Marley’s results. In session 1, the items C, B, F, E, and D, are ranked 1 through 5, respectively. Item A was not chosen after the 5th trial; therefore, it is automatically ranked last or 6.

In Session 2, items B and C are ranked 1 and 2, respectively, and these are entered in the table at the bottom of the datasheet. However, no selection was made on trial 3 and the session was therefore terminated. In this case, we give all the other items a tie rank of 4.5, which is the average of the remaining ranks 3, 4, 5, and 6 (add 3, 4, 5, and 6 and then divide the total by 4).

In Session 3, items C, B, E, F, and D are ranked 1 through 5, respectively. Item A was not chosen after the fifth trial; therefore, it is automatically ranked 6.

The next step is to calculate the average rank across the three sessions for each item and enter that in the last column of the table at the bottom of the datasheet. You do this by adding the three ranks for each item and dividing the total by 3 (see table at the bottom for an example on next page).

The item with the highest average rank (smallest number) is the most preferred and the item with the lowest average rank (largest number) is the least preferred.
Multiple-Stimulus Without Replacement Preference Assessment Datasheet

Client Name/Code: _Marley_  
Tester: _Sarah Jones_  
Date: _June 15, 2010_

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>List items below</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>List items below</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Cookie</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Carrot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Cheese</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>Celery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Potato Chips</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Cracker</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For each trial, write the letter (A through F) of the item chosen.

<p>| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Session 1</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trial</td>
<td>Item Chosen (e.g., B or Ø if none)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rank</td>
<td></td>
<td>Item Chosen (e.g., B or Ø if none)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rank</td>
<td></td>
<td>Item Chosen (e.g., B or Ø if none)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rank</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ø</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>E</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Ø</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Transfer the “rank” of items from each session above to the table below. Average the rank across the three sessions and enter the average in the last column. The item with the highest average rank (smallest number) is the most preferred item.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Rank from Each Session</th>
<th>Average Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>6 4.5 6</td>
<td>(6 + 4.5 + 6) / 3 = 5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>2 1 2</td>
<td>(2 + 1 + 2) / 3 = 1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>1 2 1</td>
<td>(1 + 2 + 1) / 3 = 1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>5 4.5 5</td>
<td>(5 + 4.5 + 5) / 3 = 4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>4 4.5 3</td>
<td>(4 + 4.5 + 3) / 3 = 3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>3 4.5 4</td>
<td>(3 + 4.5 + 4) / 3 = 3.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Review Exercise 6

Try to complete the following question for Exercise 6 without referring to the preceding section.

1. Determine the ranking for the six items (i.e., puzzle, cards, rattle, magazine, slinky, and massager) on your Exercise Datasheet (page 7 of manual).

See answer key on the next page.
Answers to Review Exercise 6

1. The table at the bottom of your Exercise Datasheet should look like this.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Rank from Each Session</th>
<th>Average Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Session 1</td>
<td>Session 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If any of your answers are incorrect, please re-read the appropriate section before moving on in the manual.
What does the ranking mean?

In the previous example with Marley, C (potato chips) is the top, or number one, ranked item with the highest average ranking (smallest number) of 1.3, followed by B (cheese) with an average rank of 1.7. Items E and F are tied in the third position, followed by items D and A in the last two positions, respectively.

The ranking indicates that the client prefers option C—potato chips—the most, and option A—cookie—the least among the six items at the time of the assessment.

If you were attempting to identify an item to use as a reward in teaching programs or to reward desirable behaviours, you would want to use potato chips, which is the top-ranked or most preferred item.

Review Exercise 7

Try to complete the following questions for Exercise 7 without referring to the preceding section.

1. The average ranks for the six items on your Exercise Datasheet are as follows:

   Puzzle (2)
   Cards (5.7)
   Rattle (2.7)
   Magazine (4.7)
   Slinky (4.7)
   Massager (1.3)

   List the items from the most to least preferred:

   _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______

2. Refer to your Exercise Datasheet that you tore out from the manual on pg. 4. Answer the question at the bottom of the datasheet.

   See answer key on the next page.
Answers to Review Exercise 7

1. Items from the most to least preferred are: Massager, puzzle, rattle, magazine, slinky, and cards

2. Massager

If any of your answers are incorrect, please re-read the appropriate section before moving on in the manual.
Part 4: Complete Behaviour Checklist for MSWO Assessments

All the checklists from the manual have been combined here for your review. Please review it to prepare for the final exercise.

Setting
• Do your assessment in a quiet place.
• Have a table and chairs, and a place for your datasheet and materials out of reach of the client.

Materials
• Gather the six items you want to test.
• If you’re testing food items, have at least four bite-size pieces of each item.
• Fill in the datasheet: client’s name, your name, date, and items.
• Bring the client in and sit at the table facing each other.

Sampling
• Present one item at a time in front of the client, ask him/her to “look” at the item, and ask him/her to take it.
• Let the client eat the food item or interact with the non-food item for up to 30 seconds, remove the item, and present the next item.
• Repeat until each item has been sampled once before you start presenting trials.

Trial Presentation
• Present all items in a row in front of client on the first trial of each session.
• Do not include the chosen item on subsequent trials of the session.
• On each subsequent trial, shift all the items one position to the left (or right).
• On each trial, ask the client to “look” at each item before putting it on the table, and then say “Pick one”.
• Give the client up to 15 seconds to choose.

After a Selection Response
• Say “Good”
• Give the selected item to the client to eat or interact with for 30 seconds
• Remove other items from the table.
• Retrieve the item after 30 seconds.
• Record the selected item on the datasheet and present the next trial.

After No Response
• If the client did not choose an item after 15 seconds, repeat the request “Pick one” once.
• If the client still does not select an item after 15 seconds, the trial ends.
• Say nothing, remove all items, record a zero on the datasheet and end the session.

After Client Tries to Take More than 1 Item
• Block gently and retrieve items if necessary (saying “no” is optional).
• Remove all items from table.
• Repeat the same trial.

Ranking Items
• Transfer the ranks from each session to table at the bottom of the datasheet.
• Add the rankings for each item across the three sessions and divide by 3 to obtain an average rank for each item.
Final Review Exercise

1. When preparing food items for your preference assessment, you need to have at least ____ bite-size pieces of each food item.

2. Sampling consists of presenting the items ________________ instead of presenting them all at once.

3. For a food item, sampling means allowing the client to ______ the food. For a non-food item, sampling means letting the client interact with the item for ________________ seconds.

4. When introducing each item, always ask the client to __________ at each item before putting it on the table and then say ____________.

5. On the first trial of each session, ___ items are presented in a row. On each subsequent trial, the item(s) selected on the previous trials are _____ included. On each subsequent trial, shift all the items ____ position to the ___________ or ___________.

6. If the client does not respond after you have given the instruction “Pick one” you will ______ the request “Pick one” ______. If the client still does not select an item after 15 seconds, the trial ________.

7. When a client attempts to take more than one item at the same time, you should intervene quickly by doing the following. However, they are not listed in the correct order. Please list them in the correct order on the right.

Retrieve any items from the client 1. ______________________
Present the same trial again 2. ______________________
Remove all items from the table 3. ______________________
Block the client gently and say nothing 4. ______________________

8. The three steps that you need to perform in order to determine the ranks for each item are listed below. However, they are not listed in the correct order. Please list item in the correct order on the right.

Divide the sum of the three ranks in each row by the number three. 1. ______________________
Transfer the ranks from each session to the table at the bottom of the datasheet. 2. ______________________
Add the three ranks in each row for each item. 3. ______________________
9. The item with the smallest rank is considered the most preferred item. True or False

See answer key on the next page.
Answers to Final Review Exercise

1. four

2. one at a time

3. consume or eat, up to 30 seconds

4. look, “Pick one”

5. all, not, one, left, right

6. repeat, once, ends

7. When a client attempts to take more than one item at the same time, you should do the following in order:

   Block the client gently and say nothing
   Retrieve any items from the client
   Remove all items from the table
   Present the same trial again

8. When determining the ranks for each item, you should do the following in order:

   Transfer the ranks from each session to the table at the bottom of the datasheet.
   Add the three ranks in each row for each item.
   Divide the sum of the three ranks in each row by the number three.

9. True

If any of your answers are incorrect, please re-read the appropriate section before completing the manual.
Multiple-Stimulus Without Replacement Preference Assessment Manual Datasheet

Client Name/Code: ___________________  Tester: ___________________
Date: ___________________

For each trial, write the letter (A through F) of the item chosen.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>List items below</th>
<th>Item</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

Question: Based on the results of the rank for each item, which of the six items is likely to be the most powerful reward? _______________________