

**MIDUS II Cognitive Test Battery**  
**Brief Test of Adult Cognition by Telephone (BTACT)**  
February 2012  
Form A

In this phone interview I will ask you to try and do some exercises that involve remembering and making judgments about words and numbers. Before we begin, I need to tell you a few things. Your participation is completely voluntary. If you prefer not to answer any question, just let me know and we will go on to the next question. The information that you give me will be confidential and used for statistical analysis only. It will be identified only by computer code and at no time will your name or other identifying information be attached to the survey results. Therefore, I won't be able to give any specific feedback.

These tasks are not harmful in any way. The exercises will take about 15 minutes. Do you have any questions about your participation in this study?

We will be tape recording the interview today so that we can score the exercises later. Do I have your permission to go ahead with this?

*(If participant seems distracted, or there is noise or commotion in background such as young children, TV or radio, or other people talking, say "It is important that you are able to concentrate without being distracted while we do these exercises. Would it be better for me to call you back another time?" If so, make an appointment for another time.)*

First I would like to make sure that you are able to hear me clearly. Please repeat these numbers after me: 2, 8, 3, 6, 9. *(If not loud enough, ask person to speak up clearly.)* Could you hear me clearly?

Now you will hear some words and numbers. Please do not use a paper and pencil for any of the questions. We suggest that you close your eyes while you are doing these to help you concentrate. Some of the questions will be easy for you, and some will be harder. We do not expect anyone to get all of these correct - just do the best you can.

**WORD LIST RECALL** (1.5 minutes on average)  
Rey Auditory-Verbal Learning Test (Lezak, 1983)

I am going to read a list of words. Listen carefully. When I am finished, you are to repeat as many of the words as you can remember. It doesn't matter in what order you repeat them. Just try to remember as many as you can. I will say each word only one time, and I cannot repeat any words. You will have up to one and a half minutes, and I will not say anything until I tell you that your time is up. Do you have any questions? Are you ready?

*(Read with one second interval between each word)*

*List of items not included.*

Now tell me as many words as you can remember.

*(Record words recalled **correctly by entering the one or two letter code**, as well as repetitions of same word and intrusions).*

**If person stops before 1 1/2 minutes is up, say, "There's still time left, can you think of any more?"**

**Good, now let's go on.**

**DIGITS BACKWARD** (2.5 minutes)  
WAIS III (1997) (copyrighted test)

I am going to say some strings of numbers, and when I am done I would like you to repeat them backwards, in the reverse order from which I said them. So if I said “3, 8”, you would say “8, 3”. Do you understand? The sets will get larger as we go.

*Items not included.*

**Good, now let’s go on.**

## **CATEGORY FLUENCY (1.5 minutes)**

Drachman & Leavitt (1972)

Now I am going to name a category and you will name things that belong in that category. Let's practice with the category "fruit". You could say peach, or pear. Can you think of any other fruits? (*wait for 2 correct items*). In a moment I will give you another category. When I say begin, you will name all the things from this **new** category you can think of, as fast as you can. You will have one minute to do this. I will let you know when your time is up. The new category is *not included here*. Do you have any questions? Ready?

Begin. (***Time for one minute***). If person stops before 1 minute is up, say "There's still more time, can you think of any more?"

**Good, now let's go on.**

**STOP AND GO TASK** (3-3.5 minutes)

Next I am going to see how quickly you can respond to the words RED and GREEN. Every time I say RED you will say STOP, and every time I say GREEN you will say GO. Try to be accurate, but respond as quickly as you can. So when I say RED you will say... And when I say GREEN you will say... Do you have any questions? Let's begin. This will last about 1 minute.

*Trials not included here.*

Good, now let's do something different.

## NUMBER SERIES (2.5 minutes)

Salthouse & Prill (1987)

In the next exercise I will read you a series of numbers that may get larger or smaller in value. At the end you will try to figure out what the next number would be. So if the numbers were 2,4,6,8,10, the next number would be 12. After I say each number I will pause for as long as you need, and then you should say “okay” when you are ready for me to go on to the next number in the group. So if I said 2, you should say “okay” when you are ready for me to go on to the next number, then I say 4, you say okay, 6, okay, 8, okay, 10, and at the end I will ask you what you think the next number would be. In this case the next number would be 12, as each number has increased by 2.

Let’s try one for practice: 35 (okay), 30 (okay), 25 (okay), 20 (okay), 15 (okay) **AND** the next number would be....???? (The answer should be 10 as each number has decreased by 5). There will be different patterns, and some of these will be harder than others, so just do the best you can. If you are not sure of the answer, it is okay to guess. Do you have any questions? (*Pause after each of the first 4 items for okay response; after the last item, say **AND** the next number is...?*).

*Items not included here.*

Good, let’s move on.

**30 SECONDS AND COUNTING TASK (30-SACT)** (45 seconds)

Next, I would like to see how fast you can count. You will have half a minute. Do you have any questions? I will let you know when the time is up.

*Specific instructions not included.*

Begin (*Time for 30 seconds*)

*Record final number reached, and number of errors.*

Good, now one more question.

**WORD LIST RECALL II** (40 seconds on average)

*List of items not included.*

Thank you very much for your help. We appreciate you taking the time to help us with this research project.