



BRIEFING / CONSENT SHEET

Assessing the sensitivity of the skin – touch discrimination

The purpose of this practical is to assess how accurately the skin on different parts of the human body can discriminate being touched by two separate points. You and your classmates will be the humans that are used for this assessment.

SAFETY: If you do not trust your colleagues to touch you gently with the equipment, please make sure your teacher knows before you start the investigation.

In the investigation you are going to be touched by something with two points a measured distance apart. Your colleague will touch you gently with one of the points, or with both. You will have to report what you feel – whether you feel one touch or two. Your colleague can touch you on any part of the body that you are comfortable with – for example, fingers, palm, back of the hand, upper arm, back of the neck, earlobe, cheek or brow. You must agree before your colleague touches you in any place.

In this investigation, everyone tested will show a slightly different sensitivity to touch, and some parts of the body will be more sensitive than others. We will put the class results together to see if there are any patterns. The results will tell us something about the sensitivity of the skin of people in your group, and you will see how your sensitivity compares with others. But, when we put all the information together, no one will know who has provided each answer – so only you will know which data are yours.

- You are participating in a piece of scientific research.
- The activity is **not** a competition.
- The results will **not** show definite measurements for any individual because we are measuring sensitivity on only one day, and with inexperienced investigators.
- If your skin sensitivity is very different from others in your group, don't worry. It is likely that your group have not done the test in exactly the same way as others.
- If you are worried about the results at the end of the practical, please stay to talk to your teacher about it.
- You do not have to take part in the activity.
- You can stop at any time (but tell your teacher).
- You don't have to put your results into the class set.
- There will be no long-term effects.

Please write your name and tick the boxes to show how you feel. Then return this slip to your teacher.

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Name:

- I am happy to start the investigation.
- I do not have any conditions that affect my skin sensitivity.
- I know I can stop at any time.
- I know I can leave my results out of the class set if I want to.