

Multiple Stimuli without Replacement (MSWO) Preference Assessment: Instructions

1. Seven items will be included in each assessment.
2. Collect the items that are going to be assessed and list them on the data sheet.
3. The student should be seated in a chair positioned in front of a table. The items may be placed on a large tray so that they can be removed from the table in between presentations.
4. Allow the student to sample each item prior to initiating the assessment (i.e., taste the food items or manipulate the leisure items for a short period of time).
5. Sequence items randomly in a straight line on the tray about 5 inches apart.
6. Instruct the student to “pick one.”
7. Immediately after the selection, remove the remainder of the items to prevent multiple selections.
8. Record the selected item on the data sheet to the corresponding number. For example, the first item selected would be written down on the space marked “1.”
9. After one item is selected, it is not replaced. For example, after the first presentation of 7 items, only 6 will be presented next.
10. Prior to the next presentation, rotate the remaining items on the tray by taking the item on the left end and moving it to the right end, then shifting the other items so that they are again equally spaced.
11. Present the remaining items and repeat the procedure described above.
12. Continue until all of the items are selected or until the student does not make a selection within 30 s from when they were told to “pick one.” In the latter case, end the session and record the remaining items as “not selected.”
13. Summarize the data by giving each item a ratio based on the number of times that it was selected (0 or 1) over the number of times that it was available (1 to 7). For example, the first four selected items will be given $1/1$, $1/2$, $1/3$, and $1/4$, in the order that they were selected. If the student selected four items but did not select any more on the fifth presentation, then all of the unselected items would be given the ratio $0/5$.
14. Conduct 5 sessions in the manner described above, and then sum the ratios for each item across the sessions. For example, if during five sessions an item produced ratios of $1/2$, $1/3$, $1/2$, $1/4$, and $0/5$, the overall sum would be $4/16$ and the conversion would yield a score of .25 indicating that the item was chosen on 25% of the trials in which it was available.
15. Once the final percentage score is calculated for each item, rank the items (from high to low) to indicate which items are predicted to be the most effective reinforcers.

DeLeon, I. G., & Iwata, B. A. (1996). Evaluation of a multiple stimulus presentation format for assessing reinforcer preferences. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, 29, 519-533.