



Department of Biology University of Malta

Information on practical sessions involving tests and procedures on human subjects

Some practical sessions, held as part of study units offered by the Department of Biology, require participants attending such sessions to carry out tests on fellow students. Tests may also be carried out by the tutor and/or demonstrator for demonstration purposes, using students as subjects. It is therefore appropriate for students to be aware of the following:

- The tests currently undertaken as part of practical work include:
 - Measurement of blood glucose
 - Electrocardiogram recordings using an ECG machine
 - Electromyogram recordings using an oscillograph
 - Eye movement studies using an oscillograph
 - Tactile response, pressure sensation and thermal response of the following:
 - Back of neck
 - Fingertips
 - Forearms (palmar surface)
 - Tip of nose
 - Palm of hand
 - Upper arm
- The tests involved should not result in any harm to the subjects. However, the test results may become available to fellow-students, the demonstrator and tutor. Furthermore, there is the possibility that a medical condition, which a subject is unaware of, may become evident during the course of such tests. In such cases, the tutor and/or Head of Department will advise the student concerned to consult a medical specialist.
- Although every attempt is made to safeguard confidentiality of test results and any potential condition that may become apparent during the course of a practical, this cannot be guaranteed given that the procedures require group work.
- Some of the procedures, particularly the one pertaining to use of ECG, will require the subject to remove clothing from the upper part of the body, namely the abdomen and chest. Because of this requirement, practicals requiring such removal of clothing will only be carried out on male subjects.
- Students are expected to participate in the practicals, with the exceptions (e.g. involvement of males only in the ECG practical) referred to above. Students may be exempted from participating in exceptional cases.

Dr Joseph A Borg
Head, Department of Biology



**Department of Biology
University of Malta**

Consent form

concerning practical sessions that involve tests on human subjects

I,, the undersigned,

holder of ID Card Number:.....

confirm that I have read and fully understood the procedures and risks involved (as stated overleaf) in practical sessions that concern basic tests on human subjects for academic purposes, and I accept to participate in such practicals.

I am aware that, in my own interest, I should inform the Tutor and Demonstrator of any medical condition relevant to the subject matter of this practical that I may have, before the start of the practical.

Signature.....

Date.....