

# Participant Information Sheet

## Games and motivation to complete online tasks

**Ethics code: 60461**

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You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether you wish to take part and remember that your participation is voluntary.

### What is this study about?

In psychological research, data on how a person's cognition changes over time is particularly valuable. Researchers typically use online longitudinal studies, like this one, to gather such data. One common problem is that online psychological studies must be sufficiently interesting enough to tempt potential participants away from the wealth of entertainment and distraction available on the internet, and this is rarely the case.

In this study, we are investigating motivation to continue testing on three different psychological tasks, in the hopes of understanding whether gamification can make the research process more appealing to participants such as yourselves.

### Important Notes:

- We have tested the study on the most recent releases of Chrome, Firefox, Safari and IE 11. Touchscreen devices are not supported.
- We will ask you to complete 3 sessions over separate 3 days.
- You must complete each session in order to take part in the next one
- You will be reimbursed once you have completed all three sessions of the study

### What will you have to do?

Each session consists of a psychological test followed by a short questionnaire. The test will be different each day. You will have a choice of how long you continue to test for. I.e. After you have completed two minutes of the task, you will be given a choice to drop out, or continue testing and earn additional bonus payment if you want to. You will be rewarded from £1.25 to £4.03 per session, depending on how long you choose to continue testing for.

The psychological test measures your action stopping ability, and is fairly typical of the type of tests researcher's use in practice. The questionnaire asks about your experience of the task, and on the first session we will also ask for some brief demographic data.

You need only complete the first block of testing and the questionnaire in order to proceed to the next session. We will invite you to subsequent sessions over the coming days, and hope to complete the whole study within a 5-day period.

More detailed instructions are provided in the task itself. The study is best performed in full-screen mode, so please press F11 before you begin.

**IMPORTANT:** The website used to run the study should be smooth and responsive. If you find that everything is moving slowly or seems buggy, please read the Troubleshooting section below.

To take part in the study, you will need to confirm that you are:

- **over 18** years of age
- have **English** as your first language
- happy with your data being made "open" (see below)

### What is your reward?

You can earn from £1.25 to £4.03 per session, depending on how long you choose to continue testing for. As such you will be reimbursed between £3.75 to £12.03 on completion of all three sessions.

### Ethics

This study has been given ethical approval by the Research Ethics Committee of University of Bristol (code: 60461). No risks or adverse effects have been identified, and no personal identifying information will be available to researchers unless you choose to provide it. If you have any questions about the research, please feel free to contact us before starting the study. You are free to withdraw from the study at any time without giving reason for doing so, however, you will only be reimbursed for your time if you complete all three sessions. You can withdraw by simply closing the browser and not continuing with the study. If you would like us to delete any data you have submitted until that point, please let us know by sending a message on Prolific Academic.

### Open Data

When this study is finished, we will analyse the data and write a research paper with the intent to publish it in a scientific journal or at a scientific meeting. We intend to publish in an Open Access journal (will mean that anyone, including members of the public) will be able to read the paper online, for free. Alongside Open Access publishing comes the idea of Open Data, which means that the dataset from the study is made publicly available so that other scientists across the world can download the dataset and conduct their own analyses, allowing them to decide for themselves whether our conclusions are valid.

To take part in this study, we ask your consent that after the study, anonymized study data will be made available as "open data". This means the anonymized study data will be publicly available and may be used for purposes not related to this study. This data will be anonymised and it will **not be possible to identify you from these data**. Prolific IDs will be removed so that it will not be possible to identify your account from the dataset.

If you give consent, you agree to 'open data' in addition to the University of Bristol keeping and processing the information that you have provided during the study.

Your consent is conditional on the University complying with its duties and obligations under the Data Protection Act.

## Why open data?

Sharing research data and findings is considered best scientific practice and is a requirement of many funding bodies and scientific journals. As a large proportion of research is publicly funded, the outcomes of the research should be made publicly available. Sharing data helps to maximise the impact of investment through wider use, and encourages new avenues of research.

## Can I withdraw my study data after I have participated in the study?

Yes. If you decide that you do not want your data to be used you can contact the study team and request that your data are withdrawn. You can do this up to one year after the study ends or up until the point the data are becomes "open data" (whichever comes first). At this point links between your identity and your anonymised data set would be destroyed, and therefore we are no longer be able to withdraw your data as we are no longer able to identity which data set is yours

## Troubleshooting

IF everything is running REALLY slowly and you're using Chrome:

Type `chrome://settings/` into the URL bar, then go to Advanced -> System is "Use hardware acceleration where available". Make sure it's ticked! Most browsers have this enabled by default, but a couple of people have had trouble. Then refresh the page and it should all work!

IF everything is running REALLY slowly and you're not using Chrome:

If you are really keen to take part, then it's worth trying other browsers such as Chrome or Firefox. However, don't feel you have to. **If the website is really slow, then please don't waste your time continuing**, as the data will not be valid if the site is not running at full speed and I will be unable to reimburse you.

The software on which this experiment runs is newly developed. As such, you may experience bugs, failures or other strange things. If your testing is prevented by any such problems, then we will reimburse you fairly. We would also really appreciate your feedback on what worked and what didn't, and whether any instructions were unclear or incorrect. Please contact us with any queries using the Prolific Messenger.

## Complaints

Any complaint about the way you have been dealt with during the study or any possible harm you might suffer would be addressed.

If you are harmed by taking part in this research project, there are no special compensation arrangements. If you are harmed due to someone's negligence, then you may have grounds for legal action but you may have to pay for it. Regardless of this, if you wish to complain or have any concerns about any aspect of the way you've been approached or treated during the course of this study, please contact us using Prolific Messenger.

If you have any questions about the study, please contact us using Prolific Messenger. Thank you!