CONSENT FORM FOR RESEARCH PARTICIPATION

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Thank you for showing interest in taking part in this research study. This is a study which is being conducted as part of a postgraduate research project at Arden University. Before you continue, it is essential that I provide more information about the test and explain what will be expected. Please read this page carefully before you decide to take part. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email STU61438@ardenuniversity.ac.uk.

What will I do if I choose to be in this study?

You will initially be asked a series of questions including confirmation of your consent to participate and a few details to identify your demographic category. This information will not be linked to you as an individual in any way and will only be used for research purposes.

After this, you will have time to look at and absorb reading material. Please **DO NOT** write these down, speak them aloud, or use any other tools to try and gain an advantage during this stage as it could impact the results of the experiment. You will then be asked 10 questions about the reading material.

At the end there will be a full debrief outlining the study, and how your test results will be used for research purposes.

Estimated participation time

Study participation will take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

Study location

All study procedures will be completed online using the sent to those invited to participate in the study.

Do you have to take part?

You have been invited to take part in this study but it is entirely voluntary and you may opt-out at any point. If you wish to withdraw, simply exit the questionnaire before completing it, or email STU61438@ardenuniversity.ac.uk if you have completed it and no longer wish your answers to be part of the study. If you have any questions as a result of reading this information sheet, please also send an email this address.

What are the possible risks or discomforts?

There are no risks involved in taking part. You will be fully debriefed online when the study has finished, ensuring that you have understood why all the specific details could not have been disclosed prior to taking part, as to not affect the study outcome.

If something goes wrong?

To ensure that all participants are left content with how the study was conducted, you are free to email me.

Confidentiality and results of the research

All data collected will be kept confidential and used for research purposes only. Please fully read this page before continuing. Pressing continue represents your express consent to participate. All information collected via this project about you will be identified through a participant code and no other information about you that could identify who you are.

What are my rights as a research participant?

Participation in this study is voluntary. You do not have to answer any question you do not want to answer. If at any time and for any reason, you would prefer not to participate in this study, please feel free not to and close the survey tab. None of the information you have entered will be collecting or saved for data analysis.

Who can I contact if I have questions or concerns about this research study?

If you have questions, you may contact me at STU61438@ardenuniversity.ac.uk.

Consent

For this study, we require the following:

- 1. You have a good command of the English language
- 2. You have read the Information Sheet explaining the study
- 3. You have a good idea about what is expected of you in this study
- 4. You understand that you can ask questions about the study after you have completed the experiment
- 5. You are free to withdraw from the study at any time
- 6. If you withdraw, you do not need to give a reason why