**Ethics and materials workshop**

The aim of this workshop is to get your formally started on your group project.

**Activity 1**

Download the ethics approval form from the DLE. You should work on this as a group.

Your main task in this workshop is to complete this ethics form, and get it checked by the workshop leader – or at least get as much done as you can. You will have to submit this form to the module leader to get formal approval so the more you get done today the better.

If you are uncertain of what to write, you can refer to the lecture notes on ethics from Lecture 1, or seek advice from the workshop leader.

In general, please provide full details wherever possible. It is better to be more detailed than needed, rather than vague. Being too vague just makes it hard for anyone to judge whether your study is ethically acceptable.

Once you have completed the ethics form, you should submit it for formal approval to the module leader. You will not be able to proceed with data collection until you have received formal approval.

**Activity 2**

The aim of the second activity is to begin the process of preparing your study. Any study involves two separate components:

1. The formal element you will get the participants to complete, such as a questionnaire, or a memory test, or a dietary diary (or whatever).
2. A protocol that describes how the study will run in practice, e.g. what will you say to participants when you recruit them? Will you allow them to ask questions? If so, what will you say? Will you ask them to turn off their mobile phones? Can they discuss the study with anyone else. How long do people have to give an answer? How will you record their responses etc.

This practical element is particularly important given that you are all going to collect data. You need to agree a protocol to ensure that you all run the study in the same way. If each of you runs the study differently, this creates 2 problems: 1) How will you describe your method, if it varies from person to person, and 2) You are less likely to find an effect because using different protocols introduces extra noise (and perhaps bias) into your study (see lectures).