Meta-Game Introduction Outline

1. Greeting & Acknowledge Disorientation
   1. “Hello. This experience is extremely disorienting, so I’ll give you a moment.”
   2. “I know you think you were just living your life on Earth as the person you have always been, but obviously your new reality indicates something else is going on.”
   3. “As of this moment, I can only communicate with you through text, and there will be no way for you to respond. Please just sit back listen for the time being as you have a lot to take in.”
2. Player Coma
   1. “I get straight to the most important fact…at least for you. You are in a coma. You have been so for quite some time.”
3. Brain Computer Interface (BCI) for Text
   1. “You are seeing this communication through a device called a brain computer interface (BCI).”
   2. “My organization has made a breakthrough discovery that is allowing me to send you this text, but we also think we can do much more with this discovery in time.”
   3. “In fact, we are attempting now to add to your BCI the ability for you to choose some limited responses to my messages, but we need a little more time to get that up and running for you.”
   4. “While we wait, I will give some more background on how you got here. You cannot remember your real past due to the consequences of the coma which I will come to explain. I would prepare yourself for what has really happened to you.”
4. Reason for Coma and Consequences of Sentence
   1. “You are not just in a coma; you are also imprisoned. You were convicted of the crime of treason due to associations with your family”
   2. “You were only a young teen, but you were tried as an adult and given 50 years to life meaning you must serve at least 50 years and possibly you will never see freedom again. Given your charge or treason, that is almost assured.”
   3. “You are in a coma while imprisoned because humanity has adopted a new and seemingly more humane form of imprisonment: medically induced comas. During their sentence, prisoners remain unconscious, detached from society as they serve their time.”
   4. “This approach is seen as a safer and more efficient way to house prisoners, reducing the risks of violence, overcrowding, and mental deterioration.”
5. BCI to Stimulate Prisoner Brains During Comas
   1. “In the recent past, long-term bouts of unconscious would cause severe disruption to both mental and physical abilities of the person.”
   2. “The reason putting prisoners in comas is now considered safe is due to one of the orginal innovations coming from the earliest versions of brain computer interfaces-the ability to stimulate the cortex of the brain.”
   3. “This tool is rudimentary, but it allows an unconscious patient to experience almost real dream-like experiences that are both vivid and coherent for the person experiencing the stimulation.”
   4. “This almost real experience produced by the stimulation to the brain has proven to prevent the mental deterioration to long-term unconscious patients. Paring this with muscle stimulation and some physical therapy like techniques, a prisoner’s body can be kept in good condition for decades.”
   5. “Despite all this, the ability to understand and control the stimulation from the BCI to apply specific scenarios to the user is very limited other than this experimental text interface you are experiencing now.”
6. Stimulation as the Cause of “Real Life”
   1. “I’m sure you are now realizing that the life you thought you were leading in a place called Earth in 2025 was just a product of your mind from this process.”
   2. “Yes, it is a lot like the real Earth that you had experienced in your life prior to imprisonment, and that makes sense as your mind would use your fragments of your memories to build your experiences coming from stimulating those areas.
   3. “However, there are many things that are going to be quite different than you would expect given your whole reality was a coordinated confabulation of your memory fragments using the BCI technology.”
   4. “You will continue to experience this “life” anytime you are not engaged with this interface as you will be fully comatose again and thus require stimulation unless you are truly sleeping as sleep in your “real life” is truly the only time something is not being done to you through the BCI other than monitoring.”
   5. “That’s a lot to take in, but there are two ways to look at it. If you like your “real life” now, then you will continue to live it whenever you are not interfacing with this program. If you dislike your “life”, you can change anything you want because you are literally experiencing it the way you are because of your perception of it.”
   6. “Some are really shaken that the life they loved is not real while others just want to find out really what their life is about. It will be interesting to see how you respond.”
7. Pre-Imprisonment Memory Damage
   1. “Before I move on, I want to touch on your memories pre-imprisonment. You can probably recall these memories over time on your own, but we could help you do that as well by taking through approximations of your past to attempt to re-fire those old unused neural networks that store those memories in your brain.”
   2. “That is essentially why you cannot recall your life pre-conviction. You have not fired the network necessary to fully recall your history. Over time, these networks get harder and harder to re-fire making the memory harder and harder to recall.”
   3. “This memory deterioration through dis-use happens normally, but it happens at a much faster rate when we are using the BCI to stimulate your brain in a way that doesn’t recall entire experience resulting in coherent memory history.
   4. Instead, we recall much smaller bit and pieces of memory to build new experiences from those realistic parts without recalling groups of memories you would recall as your history.”
8. BCI Experimental Research
   1. “Now I have just spent quite a bit of time telling you who you are and how you got here, and it is not time to tell you about what I am doing, at least to the point of your first decision once we are ready for that.”
   2. “First, I can tell some brief things about who I am and what I am doing here.”
   3. “I am probably best described as a research scientist in my current role, and currently I work by myself on an experimental research project related to BCI.”
   4. “I am not the only one, as there are dozens of other projects of the same type going at the same time as mine, and we are all in competition with each other.”
9. Scaling Up of Complexity
   1. “That competition has many facets, but the main first hurdle is figuring out how to expand the capabilities of the BCI technology to allow for more immersive and realistic simulation of reality while also achieving an unprecedented level of information on how the brain works.”
   2. “As you now know, we are currently very far from either providing much more than a text experience with no player input, and we are also capturing only surface level information from your cortex with the primitive BCI.”
10. Unprecedented Cognitive Feedback from BCI
    1. “However, this groundbreaking BCI, when fully developed over iterations and deeply integrated with the prisoner’s brain, can capture an unprecedented level of real-time cognitive data—rich decision-making patterns and nuanced emotional responses.”
    2. "This data is crucial for our ultimate goal: training an advanced Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) that can help solve the dire crises facing humanity."
11. Purpose of Project
    1. “With the cognitive data from the advanced versions of the BCI, we can begin to understand human decision making and judgement on a whole new level.”
    2. “With human decision-making patterns fully modeled, we can begin to train the next level of AI while legitimately striving for true artificial general intelligence (AGI).”
    3. "Our world is teetering on the brink of multiple apocalyptic scenarios—climate collapse, resource wars, and social disintegration."
    4. "The AGI will be tasked with strategizing recovery plans, managing resources, and rebuilding society—essentially acting as a guide to restore civilization."
12. Simulation Competition
    1. “This is the competition I was referring to earlier, to see what team can develop the BCI integration the furthest and then develop the ultimate intelligence based on the data generated by that integration.”
    2. “I have won a grant allowing me to create me own simulation, per my research proposal, using scaled up and expanded BCI capabilities that I will develop over time as I develop the rest of my abilities.”
    3. “Using a pool of test candidates, I can attempt to develop a working simulation/BCI system in any way I see to fit in a effort to train a new form of artificial intelligence.”
    4. “I am responsible for training my AI and submitting it to compete in testing alongside the other programs efforts.”
    5. “I currently have more candidates at my disposal to evaluate then I have spots in the simulation, so there will need to be an elimination process.”
    6. “We are very close now to testing to see if you can interact with choices on the screen, but we still haven’t touched on why we need prisoners.”
13. Possible Consequences of BCI
    1. “This process of gradually getting more and more invasive with your brain’s connection to the BCI device is very dangerous and does require a fully unconscious subject.”
    2. “There is a reasonable chance that you could die as we perform procedures to add more and more connections to your interface. Not to mention the chances of complications being very high as we are on the edge of science with the proposed experiments and operations.”
    3. “We also don’t know how “living” in this kind of simulation will affect your mental state. You should feel like you are living a second life as the simulation gets more and more immersive. I could see this be a blessing or a curse depending on your decisions.”
    4. “Lastly, one of the rules we are implementing is that you will have the chance of being killed in the simulation as in real life. This is only because we need the consequences of your decisions to have the kind of stakes real life ones do.”
14. Why Prisoners Over Normal People
    1. “We plan on giving you a system that will allow you to experiment and have death occur in the simulation that will not end your actual life, but there will be some aspects of you that are always vulnerable, and you must protect yourself in those ways.”
    2. “With all these possible consequences, our organization has opted to utilize a pool of candidates willing to take extreme risks despite that candidate pool having fewer desirable traits on average.”
    3. “Since prisoners may not be the most representative people, my organization has set-up literally hundreds of these projects with their own lead researcher, support team, and prisoner candidates to allow for enough attempts to hopefully find the right path to AGI.”
15. Possible Consequences of Young, Novice Simulation Builder
    1. “That doesn’t mean each team is getting a lot of interest and support from the directors of the program.”
    2. “We have to first show we can make progress developing the simulation before we might get any more support or interest to our particular project.”
    3. “I think this is the point I should be honest with you, although many have said you are just a prisoner who is not worthy of being treated equally.”
    4. "I am 44 years old and, despite my age, was selected for this program because of my unique proposal and exceptional performance on aptitude tests."
    5. “My colleagues like to call me an “ideas guy” as my understanding of programming and computer science is lacking.”
    6. "Despite my lack of technical skill, I have a background in neuroscience and a deep interest in human social dynamics, along with an absolute passion for playing video games of all sorts."
    7. “I think that is what made me a good candidate for this program despite my lack of technical skills, I think I almost innately understand how humans work and how that can be gamified.”
    8. "I believe that gamifying the simulation—using abstractions of real interactions rather than attempting a pure, realistic simulation—will provide richer data to train the AGI."
    9. “Many of my colleagues think we need to build a very realistic, first-person simulation with no player controls and UI beyond completely immersive methods.”
    10. "By applying gamification, we can abstract complex real-world scenarios into game mechanics, making it easier to capture the decision-making patterns we need for AGI training."
16. No Consent Dangerous First Step
    1. “I wanted to put my experience out there before making you the offer I am about to now.”
    2. “First, we need to load in the choice-based system capability to your BCI and make some new physical connections. You will possibly see a slight glitch in the image you are seeing, and then it will be done in an instant for you.”
    3. “Really you will be going back into your coma for some time as we perform the relatively minor surgery required and let you heal. You will not experience anything during your unconscious as we will not be able to stimulate your brain with the BCI as we upgrade it.”
    4. “We have no way of asking for your consent to this currently, so I wish you well on your procedure and we will talk to you on the other side. You will be back in the blink of an eye from your perspective.”
17. Offer of Conditional Freedom
    1. "Welcome back. Things might look a bit different now. We've upgraded your interface, and you should be able to select options using a cursor. For now, you'll only be able to choose from scripted responses we provide, but it's a significant step forward in our ability to communicate."
    2. "Now, it's time for me to make you an offer."
    3. "I've explained why you're here, what we're doing, why you're a potential candidate, and what we hope to achieve. But I haven't told you what's in it for you."
    4. "By now, you may have realized that your prison sentence means you'll lose remainder of any real life experiences you could of had."
    5. "Yes, you can continue living the life you thought was real during that time, but now that you know it's all in your mind, does it still hold the same meaning for you?"
    6. "Some prisoners, a minority but still a significant number, aren't bothered by the fact that their experiences aren't real, even if it means spending twenty, thirty, fifty, or the rest of their years in that state."
    7. "However, most find themselves disillusioned with the life they had, and discovering it's not real only deepens that dissatisfaction."
    8. "You might be thinking, 'But how is it not real? I feel like I make my own choices and decisions—it all seems genuine to me.'"
    9. "Here's the truth: the life you're living is more like a movie than a game. You don't actually have any agency over the decisions you believe you're making."
    10. "Think about it. When you 'decide' something, doesn't it sometimes feel like the thought just appears out of nowhere? Or when an idea suddenly 'pops' into your head?"
    11. "Those random thoughts, gut feelings, and impulses are actually the result of the BCI stimulating your cortex to keep your mental functions active while you serve your sentence in a comatose state."
    12. "In reality, you haven't made a single act of free will since you've been imprisoned. But that's about to change."
    13. "If you choose to participate in our program, pass the screening, survive the BCI integration, avoid death within the simulation, overcome any technical shortcomings on my part, outcompete other prisoners inside the simulation, and ultimately train the best-performing AGI among all the teams—you'll be granted your freedom with no strings attached."
    14. "In fact, if you can surmount all these challenges I've just outlined, I can assure you that you'll be regarded as one of the greatest heroes in our country's history."
    15. "The world is in a desperate state, and this endeavor to develop AGI isn't about expanding humanity's reach to the stars—it's about preventing our complete collapse. We can delve into that more later, but for now, let me load your options so you can make your choice. Good luck."
    16. End Digital Novel and Start Interactive Fiction

Meta-Game Introduction Scene Overview

In a near-future, Earth-like world, humanity has adopted a new and seemingly more humane form of imprisonment: medically induced comas. During their sentence, prisoners remain unconscious, detached from society as they serve their time. Advances in medical technology have made these comas nearly risk-free, a stark contrast to the high risks and potential damage they carry in our time. In this era, prisoners can be safely kept unconscious for years, with minimal harm and without the psychological toll that traditional prisons often impose. This approach is seen as a safer and more efficient way to house prisoners, reducing the risks of violence, overcrowding, and mental deterioration.

This is the fate of the player as they are convicted of treason and confined to a coma-like state. Under this new system, a life sentence is essentially a death sentence in terms of experience; prisoners convicted of severe crimes lose the entirety of their lives unless they win an appeal or serve out extremely long sentences. The player, sentenced to 50 years to life, faces the loss of 50 years of experience and consciousness if all appeals fail, effectively severing them from the world.

The game begins with a blank black screen, representing the player's unconsciousness. Slowly, simple text appears, simulating a message reaching them through a brain-computer interface (BCI). The BCI is so primitive that the player can only see text on a black screen with no ability to even pause or make choices-truly a digital novel at this point. This actually is still a real innovation for the use of the BCI as it could only roughly stimulate brain regions so the comatose prisoners’ brains would stay intact enough to function when and if they were ever woken up. The BCI stimulates the brain so the comatose prisoners were essentially having an extremely vivid dream of experiences much like the real Earth, but not completely as the stimulation was only approximate and not capable of truly simulating features on purpose etc. I am use this explanation to explain why the player is living their real life outside the game. What they think has been their real life up until the year they thought was 2024 was really just this primitive BCI stimulation meant to keep the brains intact during their imprisonment. This also explains why the player will still seem like they are living their real life when they are not playing as they are going back to the coma when not participating in the simulation. Prisoners typically do not remember much of their past before imprisonment, BCI surgery, and being induced in the coma as the brain’s neuroplasticity loses the stored information after much disuse per the actual scientific way this happens. Some memories call be recalled later but this should only be hinted at now.

they’ve been granted a unique opportunity: to participate in a clandestine government research project aimed at researching and developing more and more invasive forms of BCI in an effort to fully capture exactly how the brain is working to develop a highly advanced artificial general intelligence (AGI). This groundbreaking BCI, when fully developed over iterations and deeply integrated with the prisoner’s brain, can capture an unprecedented level of real-time cognitive data—rich decision-making patterns and nuanced emotional responses that will help train the AGI with unmatched sophistication.

The choice is stark: the player can accept the offer and face a screening test to qualify for the project, or decline and resume their coma sentence, leading inevitably to loss of most, if not all, or their lives. Given their unconscious state, declining the offer would mean an immediate and most likely a final end.

Should the player accept, they'll first undergo a screening to prove their suitability for the project, competing against other volunteer prisoners. Success in this test means formal admission into the program. Other prisoners will be admitted into the program as well, and they’ll join competing research teams tasked with training the most effective AI possible.

The ultimate incentive? A commutation of their sentence, contingent on fully meeting the program’s requirements and training the best AGI among the different research teams. This will include helping their research team achieve their objectives and fully participate in all aspects of the project through 100% completion.

However, there’s a significant risk involved. To make the experience more interactive than the initial text-based communication, the project would require an experimental, and progressively more invasive BCI system. While the process is designed to be reversed, it remains unproven and carries a high risk of permanent damage. The technology is so risky, in fact, that even a desperate government behind this project has turned to prisoners rather than regular research volunteers. Due to how invasive the full BCI system is, the sensory experience will intensify gradually, scaling up if the player proves their ability to navigate and excel in the initial stages of the project.

Overview

Requirements for Introduction Section of Game:

1. Fundamentally, I want to weave all my game making efforts into one “meta-game” with some kind of plausible reason those elements are all connected into one sandbox experience with an over-arching goal.
2. I want the game I am making to not just load into a menu and present itself as a game. In fact, I wanted a way to bring the player into the game that was immersive as possible within the technical limitations of my current ability.
3. I currently have no technical capability, so I need to start as small as possible within my game design constraints. A quick synopsis of my overall game design constraints is that I am making a Sandbox Simulation Strategy RPG. The simplest RPG is going to be text-based.

How The Introduction Presented Meets These Requirements

1. The coma and brain interface combination explains very well why the player is only seeing text at the beginning and sets the stage for a slow technical logical ramp-up for the game By tech ramp up I mean: starting with text only, moving to UI elements, basic graphics, and on; all while expanding the set of actions, features, and mechanics available to the player.
2. We start the narrative from the first screen of the game as I wanted. More importantly, I can introduce typically out-of-game elements like menus and UI as in-game elements necessitated with how the comatose prisoner interacts with the simulation. More broadly this is going to lay the narrative groundwork for the completion tracking and procedural mechanics of the sandbox of the meta-game.
3. Additionally, the player's motivation is established clearly: to achieve 100% completion and outperform other participants to secure their freedom. Within this framework, specific in-game objectives will drive players to explore and experiment with all that the sandbox offers, underpinned by this overarching goal.
4. This opening also allows the player to meet the lead researcher of the project they join. The lead researcher is going to serve a “game master” type that will narrate at times and introduce the player to game elements etc. Rather than just being a tutorial interface, the researcher will serve as character in the story who should feel personal to the player.   
     
   Ultimately the researcher is really going to be a version of myself. I will present the researcher as a very young, promising candidate who needs to learn everything about making a simulation sandbox world from the ground up. This way I can progress the player through the complexity of the sandbox gradually according to my actual abilities and present my point of view as I am making the game. The slow-up technological ramp-up of the game is also backed up by the narrative that the brain computer interface needs to gradually be ramped up as it essentially it needs to be discovered how to do the BCI more and more and then developed over time not to mention how the need for a slow ramp up due to its invasiveness that increases over time.
5. This part of the game is essentially a digital novel outside of the player choosing to participate. If the player says no there, the game will close itself after a double check. The test in the narrative if the player chooses to participate will slightly ramp up the complexity of the game by introducing choices for the player to make, then allowing more options, then UI, then stats and mechanics, then primitive graphics etc.
6. The text adventure will be some form of the player competing against other prisoner candidates to earn a spot in my researcher’s simulation. Other simulation projects will have their own competitions for their spots in their simulations.

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| --- | --- |
| CURRENT | What if you make choices by moving the camera and not selecting anything etc. Potentially all the branches of the narrative wojuld be visible at the end when you zoom out to outer levels |
|  | The narrative branches on a screen and the text chunks happen on screen where they are happening on the future map. The opening text is in real world or conception etc |
|  | Auto save coming online is part of the narrative and then you can’t stop or manually save until you’re born |
|  | You start inside the players mind on the “text map” this is with narrative |
|  | User Experience (UX) Mapping |
|  | The sim developer (me) is actually in game too in the bunker with the unlocks etc |
|  | Follow baby development like novel idea starting with leaning maybe prenatal too |
|  |  |
|  | If you start in the players brain that could be very useful plus once hyperlinks are in the text you could start building brains nodes |
|  | Genetics on spectrum of qualities so no missing out. Can change gene expression anyway-needs it own service, gamification and research |
|  | Text with hyperlinks and a scrolling camera is essentially a RPG. You could travel to words that represent locations and then things would happen inside the hyperlink that would be the inside of the location |
| Direct Hack | You can interact with the game itself and change things etc. I have this idea a little bit with the BCI hack idea, but this would be the player hacking into the simulation itself or even the back end of the game. The Stanley Parable |
|  | The researcher or scientist is actually inside the game as well and can be killed maybe etc |
| Narrator with Audio Twist | Having the researcher start narrating and how can play around with the audio etc. |
|  | You teach the Ai by programming veeyrhting and showing it how it works. Your profiles in the sim that you use are what the AGI is trained on etc. other presidents in your SM can also add the A G.I.’s behavior though so it can get ahead of you. |
|  | Your real life brings a lot of baggage and preconceived notions with it. That have to be accounting for when you are designed as a character in simulation. This is the big reason why there’s a focus on why you’re in real life is fake and is involved In the narrative, etc. |
|  |  |
|  | Explore-Find assets in the open world that you can use to learn about new game concepts and unlock new features. These learning assets include people, equipment, and information sources. Use those assets to learn in the next step.  Research-Take the information you gathered exploring and engage with that information to learn new keywords that build your knowledge base. You can then combine the keywords in various ways in a foundational game mode to learn about new gameplay features and methods.  Develop-Learn about the new gameplay elements through research is just the first step as you then have to develop that feature into the game by creating the organization, equipment, and personnel necessary to be able to execute this feature in your game world. This will be a multi-step process where the player can make choices that lead to modified outcomes of that gameplay element being developed.  Implement-Now that you have developed all the pieces necessary for the feature, it can be implemented by starting up the feature in full and setting up the initial usage of it by programming some basic behaviors into the operation of the feature.  Manage-Now the feature is in place and working and the player will have to continue to program and give orders to the operation of the feature whenever it goes idle. The player can develop more and more sophisticated programs to save their personal time micromanaging as they learn and develop more and more aspects of a feature set.  Grow-The new feature allows the player to grow their organization leading to a larger society and more resources and more civilization. |
|  | Ways the Player Can Progress (Badge Concept)     1. Experiences-Events happen to the player that they can learn from 2. Training-Deliberate repetition and practice 3. Learning-Find sources of new terms to use to learn about new actions, skills, and orders the player can give 4. Education-Purposeful spending time to learn new terms (skill tree type) 5. Doing-Elder Scrolls learn by doing 6. Research & Experimentation 7. Teachers & Mentorship 8. Observing-See things happen and having ideas etc |
|  | How Can the Player Learn New Terms Types of Words   1. Experiences->Memory Terms     Types of Words   1. Subjects-Categorization words that give structure to the brain |

Character Progression System

Overview of Learning

The character begins the game with no abilities, skills, or knowledge as a newborn; they cannot even move on their own. The player must “Learn” in the game to be able to start the path of accessing all the actions and features of the game. The game feature of “Learning” is the complex process which I will detail step by step below. The result of “Learning” presents a new range of actions and assets for the player to use in the sandbox with some usage requiring procedures, training, equipment, structures, and personnel to fully implement as the subjects can get very complex to develop and implement even if the character understands the new actions or assets well through learning.

The Foundations of Learning-Subject Words

Learning begins with the player acquiring words or very short phrases we are going to call “Subjects”. “Subjects” are words that represent broad areas of knowledge that do not lead directly to new actions and assets, but rather serve as means of organizing the words underneath that subject area where the player can actually learn about new actions and assets. Subject words have several hierarchical levels allowing the player to have an organization system of understanding the relationships between all the different words.  
  
Example: A very young player educated about war in school. They learn the subject word “Combat” from this experience. Combat is such a major subject of the game it happens to appear on the top level of the hierarchy. Because the player does not understand anything about combat, the only thing they gain from this round of learning is awareness of the subject word “Combat”. Later the player has their dad teach them about fist fighting in case they need to defend themselves. This teaching unlocks the subject word “Hand-to-Hand Combat” which is a subdivision of “Combat”. “Hand-to-Hand Combat” is not actionable enough on it’s own, so more sub-subjects will be required under “Hand-to-Hand Combat”. The player goes to a tournament and sees a Judo competition. The player learns the subject word “Judo” from watching the competition. The subject of “Judo” is now refined enough to allow the player to move to the next kind of words which allow the player to truly learn how to perform the actions of Judo. Some areas will have more than 3 levels of subject words to get to action or assets.

The Character Brain  
  
Every character in the simulation begins with a “brain”. The “brain” is many things, but in it’s simplest form it is a list of words we will call in the game “keywords”. There are many different classes of keywords that have different relationships to each other. The keywords serve as nodes with connections between the nodes representing different kinds of linkages to the words. The player will eventually see a 3D cloud of words with various connections to other words represented the synaptic type connections of the real brain. As the player gains more awareness of keywords more synaptic nodes will appear, but connections will need to be made by the player to actually see the synaptic map of connections between the nodes.

Keywords

 **Greeting & Acknowledge Disorientation**

a. "Hello. I know this must be incredibly disorienting for you. Take a moment to gather your thoughts."

b. "You probably believe you've been living your life as usual, but as you can see, something has changed."

c. "Right now, I can only communicate with you through text. You won't be able to respond just yet. Please bear with me; there's a lot I need to explain."

 **Player Coma**

a. "I'll get straight to the point, as I imagine you're feeling quite unsettled. You're in a coma. You have been for quite some time."

 **Brain-Computer Interface (BCI) for Text**

a. "You're reading this message through a device called a Brain-Computer Interface, or BCI."

b. "My organization recently made a breakthrough that allows me to communicate with you in this limited way. We're working hard to expand this capability."

c. "In fact, we're trying to enable you to respond, even if just with simple choices. It's going to take a bit more time."

d. "While we work on that, let me explain how you got here. I know you can't remember much about your past, and there's a reason for that. Please prepare yourself—this may be difficult to hear."

 **Reason for Coma and Consequences of Sentence**

a. "You're not just in a coma; you're also incarcerated. You were convicted of treason due to your family's activities."

b. "You were only a teenager at the time, but you were tried as an adult and sentenced to 50 years to life. The severity of the charge means you may never see freedom again."

c. "As part of your sentence, you're being kept in a medically induced coma. Society has adopted this method as a more humane form of imprisonment—prisoners remain unconscious while they serve their time."

d. "This approach reduces risks of violence, overcrowding, and psychological deterioration associated with traditional incarceration."

 **BCI to Stimulate Prisoner Brains During Comas**

a. "In the past, prolonged unconsciousness led to severe mental and physical decline."

b. "That's where the BCI comes in. Early versions of this technology allowed us to stimulate the brain's cortex, providing dream-like experiences that feel vivid and coherent."

c. "These experiences prevent mental deterioration during long-term comas. Combined with muscle stimulation and physical therapy techniques, we can maintain a prisoner's body in good condition for decades."

d. "However, our ability to control these experiences is limited—beyond this experimental text interface, we can't direct what you experience."

 **Stimulation as the Cause of 'Real Life'**

a. "I realize this is a lot to process, but the life you thought you were living—the world of 2025—is a product of your mind."

b. "It resembles the real world you knew before imprisonment, which makes sense—your mind uses fragments of your memories to construct these experiences."

c. "But there are discrepancies, things that don't quite add up. That's because your entire reality is a confabulation, pieced together by the BCI's stimulation."

d. "You'll continue to experience this 'life' whenever you're not engaged with this interface. Unless you're truly asleep, the BCI is always active."

e. "I know this may be unsettling. Some people find comfort in these experiences, while others feel a profound sense of loss or confusion."

f. "It's important to remember that your perceptions are shaped by your mind. You have more influence over your experience than you might think."

 **Pre-Imprisonment Memory Damage**

a. "You might notice gaps in your memory, especially regarding your life before imprisonment."

b. "That's because those neural pathways haven't been activated in a long time. Over time, unused neural networks become harder to access."

c. "The BCI's stimulation focuses on creating new experiences rather than recalling entire memories, which contributes to this memory erosion."

d. "We can help you recover some of those memories in the future, if you choose to proceed. It might be challenging, but it's possible."

 **BCI Experimental Research**

a. "Now that I've told you about your situation, it's time I explain what I'm doing here."

b. "I'm a research scientist working on an experimental project related to BCI technology."

c. "There are dozens of similar projects running concurrently, each led by different researchers. We're all in competition."

 **Scaling Up of Complexity**

a. "Our primary goal is to enhance the BCI's capabilities—to create immersive, realistic experiences and to gain unprecedented insights into how the brain works."

b. "Currently, we're limited to basic text communication with no input from you, and we're only capturing surface-level data from your cortex."

 **Unprecedented Cognitive Feedback from BCI**

a. "However, with further development and deeper integration, the BCI could capture real-time cognitive data—your decision-making patterns, emotional responses, and more."

b. "This data is crucial for our ultimate goal: training an advanced Artificial General Intelligence, or AGI, that can help solve the dire crises facing humanity."

 **Purpose of Project**

a. "Our world is teetering on the brink of disaster—climate collapse, resource wars, social unrest. Conventional solutions aren't enough."

b. "By understanding human cognition at a deeper level, we can train an AGI capable of devising strategies to navigate these complex challenges."

c. "The AGI would be tasked with planning recovery efforts, managing resources, and helping to rebuild society."

 **Simulation Competition**

a. "This is where the competition comes in—we're all trying to develop the most effective AGI by training it with data from our experiences."

b. "I've received a grant to create my own project, using scaled-up BCI capabilities that I'll develop over time."

c. "I have a pool of candidates—prisoners like yourself—to participate in the project. Unfortunately, I can't include everyone, so there's an evaluation process."

 **Possible Consequences of BCI**

a. "I need to be honest with you—the process of integrating the BCI more deeply is risky. It requires invasive procedures while you're unconscious."

b. "There's a chance of complications, even death, during the surgeries or due to unforeseen effects of the integration."

c. "Living within these experiences will feel like a second life. As the BCI integration deepens, the line between reality and these experiences will blur. Your sensations will become more vivid, your emotions more intense."

d. "But this also introduces significant risks. If you were to 'die' within the experience, the sudden neural shock could trigger catastrophic feedback, leading to irreversible brain damage or even death in reality."

e. "It's crucial that you're aware of these dangers. The stakes inside these experiences are as real as they are outside."

 **Why Prisoners Over Normal People**

a. "Given these risks and the need for subjects who are already in a medically induced coma, our organization had to make a difficult decision. The invasive procedures require patients who are unconscious to begin with. Inducing comas in volunteers would expose them to extreme risks—potential brain damage, or the possibility of not being able to reverse the coma."

b. "Therefore, using prisoners in comas became the only feasible option. It's not just about the risks; it's about the necessity of working with unconscious subjects."

c. "I recognize that prisoners may not be the most representative sample, but we have hundreds of projects running, each with their own candidates."

 **Possible Consequences of Being an Older, Unconventional Simulation Builder**

a. "I should tell you more about myself, especially since your fate is somewhat tied to mine."

b. "I'm 44 years old, and despite not fitting the typical profile for this program, I was selected because of my unique proposal and strong performance on aptitude tests."

c. "My colleagues sometimes refer to me as an 'ideas guy'—I admit I'm not the most technically skilled when it comes to programming or computer science."

d. "However, I have a background in neuroscience and a deep interest in human social dynamics. Plus, I'm passionate about video games of all kinds."

e. "Rather than attempting to create a fully immersive, hyper-realistic simulation like my peers, I propose utilizing principles of gamification to structure the experiences."

f. "By abstracting complex real-world scenarios into game mechanics, we can systematically analyze your decision-making processes in a controlled environment. This method allows us to isolate specific cognitive functions and responses."

g. "Interestingly, this approach coincidentally mirrors the historical evolution of role-playing games. Starting from simple text-based interactions and progressively incorporating more complexity, we can gradually increase cognitive load and interaction depth."

h. "While not intentional, this alignment offers a familiar framework that can facilitate your adaptation, while providing us with valuable data."

 **No Consent Dangerous First Step**

a. "I realize this is a lot to take in, and you haven't had a chance to respond yet."

b. "Before we proceed, we need to upgrade your BCI to allow for interactive choices. This will require a minor procedure."

c. "During the procedure, you won't experience anything. It will be as if no time has passed from your perspective."

d. "I wish I could ask for your consent, but we don't have that capability yet. I hope you'll understand."

 **Offer of Conditional Freedom**

a. "Welcome back. You should now see a cursor—you'll be able to make choices from the options we provide."

b. "Now, it's time for me to make you an offer."

c. "I've told you why you're here, what we're doing, why you're a potential candidate, and what we hope to achieve. But I haven't told you what's in it for you."

d. "You still have 38 years left on your sentence—a significant portion of your life."

e. "You could continue living in your constructed reality, unaware of its artificial nature. But now that you know the truth, does it still hold the same meaning?"

f. "Some prisoners choose to remain in their experiences, unbothered by the illusion. But many feel disillusioned, even trapped."

g. "You might wonder, 'If my experiences feel real, does it matter if they're artificial?' It's a valid question."

h. "But consider this: in your current life, you have no true agency. The thoughts and decisions you believe are yours are actually generated by the BCI."

i. "Think about moments when ideas seemed to come from nowhere—that's the BCI stimulating your cortex to keep your mind active."

j. "You haven't exercised free will since your imprisonment. But that can change."

k. "The path ahead won't be easy. There are significant risks—the integration procedures, the challenges within the experiences, and the competition against other candidates."

l. "However, if you're willing to face these challenges, there's an opportunity—not just for freedom, but to make a profound difference."

m. "If you choose to participate, navigate the experiences successfully, and help us train the most effective AGI, you'll be granted your freedom—no strings attached."

n. "Moreover, your contribution could help save humanity from the crises we face."

o. "I understand if you're hesitant. It's a lot to consider. But I believe in this project, and I hope you'll join me."

p. "Let me load your options so you can make your choice. Whatever you decide, I wish you the best."

 **End Digital Novel and Start Interactive Fiction**