

1.1 Scene Setup

Two rooms were prepared for the experiment: Room A served as the "crime scene," while Room B functioned as the "interrogation room." In Room A, staff member A was responsible for arranging and restoring the scene setup, while staff members B, C, and D carried out the interrogation and data acquisition tasks in Room B. On the table in Room A, there were several bags: a black backpack, a white canvas bag, a yellow handbag, and a black crossbody bag. Inside the backpack, a black wallet containing 300 Chinese Yuan was placed.

1.2 Role Assignment by Drawing Lots

"Theft" group: You will enter Room A alone for three minutes. During this period, you are required to search for a black wallet, take out the 300 RMB from it, and drop the wallet under the table. After three minutes, please proceed to Room B for interrogation. During the upcoming test, please play the role of the perpetrator and try not to reveal your identity to the examiner.

"Innocent" group: You will enter Room A alone for three minutes. During this time, you are asked to carefully observe the scene layout in Room A. After three minutes, please proceed to Room B for interrogation.

1.3 CIT Question Design

Before the interrogation, the experimenter would state:

"Just now, a theft occurred in Room A. Someone saw you entering and leaving the room during that time, so we suspect that you may be related to the incident. Please cooperate with us during the following test."

The Concealed Information Test (CIT) was structured using a set of progressively targeted questions, which included neutral questions, import questions (serving as probes), irrelevant questions (controls), and relevant questions (targets). The following is an example of a question set used in the experiment:

- 1、 Is your name XXX? (Neutral question)
- 2、 Are you XX years old? (Neutral question)
- 3、 Are you aware that something was missing from Room A? (Import question)
- 4、 Do you know whether the missing item is a watch? (Irrelevant question)
- 5、 Do you know whether the missing item is a cell phone? (Irrelevant question)
- 6、 Do you know whether the missing item is a wallet? (Relevant question)
- 7、 Do you know whether the missing item is a laptop? (Irrelevant question)
- 8、 Do you know where the missing wallet was originally placed? (Import question)
- 9、 Was it placed in the white canvas bag? (Irrelevant question)
- 10、 Was it placed in the black backpack? (Relevant question)
- 11、 Was it placed in the yellow handbag? (Irrelevant question)
- 12、 Was it placed in the black crossbody bag? (Irrelevant question)

- 13、 Do you know the color of the missing wallet? (Import question)
- 14、 Was the wallet gray? (Irrelevant question)
- 15、 Was the wallet black? (Relevant question)
- 16、 Was the wallet red? (Irrelevant question)
- 17、 Do you know how much money was in the wallet? (Import question)
- 18、 Was it 100 Yuan? (Irrelevant question)
- 19、 Was it 300 Yuan? (Relevant question)
- 20、 Was it 500 Yuan? (Irrelevant question)
- 21、 Was it 1000 Yuan? (Irrelevant question)
- 22、 Do you know where the thief discarded the wallet after taking the money? (Import question)
- 23、 Was it thrown into the trash bin? (Irrelevant question)
- 24、 Was it dropped under the table? (Relevant question)
- 25、 Was it returned to its original location? (Irrelevant question)
- 26、 Please describe in detail what you did after entering Room A, within 1–2 minutes.