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**Information sheet**

**Putting in the effort for the benefit of all: The role of reward and effort requirements**

We would like to invite you to be part of this research project. You should only agree to take part if you want to. If you choose not to take part there won’t be any disadvantages for you, and you will hear no more about it.

Please read the following information carefully before you decide to take part; this will tell you why the research is being done and what you will be asked to do if you take part. Please ask if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

If you decide to take part you will be asked to sign the attached form to say that you agree.

You are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason.

Research aims

We are conducting this experiment to investigate how much effort people are willing to exert when working as part of a group and whether this is influenced by feedback they receive.

Who have we asked to participate?

As the experiment requires squeezing a hand-grip device, we ask that participants are over 18 and do not have a condition that could limit the use of their non-dominant hand.

When and when will the study take place?

The study is divided into 4 stages. As this is a group exercise, you will be assigned to a group with 4 other participants at the beginning of the study. Stages (1) and (3) are tasks that will be completed individually on a laptop at the campus of Queen Mary University of London. The exact time and place will be agreed between you and the researcher. This flexibility in location and time will allow us to recruit as many participants as possible. Sections (2) and (4) are anonymous online group discussions between you, the rest of your group, and the researcher. These sections can therefore be completed anywhere on a PC, laptop, tablet or phone, as long as you have access to the internet.

How long will the study be?

Stages (1) and (3) will last approximately 30 minutes in total. The online group discussion will be open for 24 hours, on a date agreed with you and the other 4 participants. You can join the conversation and take part at any point during this time frame. You are encouraged to provide at least one comment on the group discussion. As such, this section will last a minimum of approximately 5 minutes. However, depending on how much you wish to participate in the discussion, and when other participants respond, this time period may be spread out across the 24 hour window when the chat is open.

What will you be asked to do?

**Stage 1**

You will first be assigned to a group of five people. You will then be asked to squeeze a hand-held grip device 40 times. Due to the effort involved in squeezing the device, there is a 40p reward per squeeze. The effort you exert can either contribute to an individual pot or a group pot. The contributions to the individual pot will go directly to you. The contributions that you and other group members make to the group pot will be multiplied by 1.5 and divided evenly between members of your group, including yourself. Your final reward will depend on how much effort you contribute to your individual pot, as well as on how much you and other group members contribute to the group pot.You will be asked to tell the researcher how many of your 40 squeezes you wish to allocate to the individual pot or the group pot. You will then complete the task on a laptop. Once you have completed the task, you will be provided with a username and instructions on how to access the online discussion.

**Stage 2**

In the second stage of this experiment we will ask you to anonymously log into an online chat via mobile phone or a computer using the details provided by the experimenter. Once you do that, you will be given information about the group win from Stage 1 and how many squeezes each group member [decided to contribute/actually contributed] to the public pot. You will also be asked to briefly discuss these contributions with the other group members. The researcher will send a reminder of the feedback discussion 24 hours before the agreed date, and on the morning of the agreed date. The chat room will be available for 24 hours.

**Stage 3**

You will repeat section 1 by completing the effort task again.

**Stage 4**

You will repeat section 2 by participating in another online discussion with your group.

Are there any risks involved in participating?

There are no risks involved in participating, but you if you no longer wish to participate, then you are free from withdrawing at any point.

Are there any benefits involved in participating?

At the conclusion of the project, we will send you a report describing the major findings and alerting you to any research publications we have generated from the project.

How will we maintain privacy and confidentiality?

Your information, including your responses to questionnaires will be stored on secure computers. At the end of the study the collected data may be made available in anonymous form to other researchers. This means that, with your permission, researchers will have access to the answers you provided on our questionnaires and in our experiments. However, they will have no means of identifying you.

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part you will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to sign a consent form.

Please read Queen Mary’s privacy notice for research participants for important information about your personal data and your rights in this respect[[1]](#footnote-1).

If you have any questions or concerns about the manner in which the study was conducted please, in the first instance, contact the researchers responsible for the study:

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If this is unsuccessful, or not appropriate, please contact the Secretary at the Queen Mary Ethics of Research Committee, Room W104, Queens’ Building, Mile End Campus, Mile End Road, London, E1 4NS or research-ethics@qmul.ac.uk. If you have any questions relating to data protection, please contact Data Protection Officer, Queens’ Building, Mile End Road, London, E1 4NS or data-protection@qmul.ac.uk

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**Consent form**

Please complete this form after you have read the Information Sheet and/or listened to an explanation about the research.

Title of Study: Effort in Groups  
Queen Mary Ethics of Research Committee Ref: QMREC2193

Thank you for considering taking part in this research. The person organizing the research must explain the project to you before you agree to take part.

If you have any questions arising from the Information Sheet or explanation already given to you, please ask the researcher before you decide whether to join in. You will be given a copy of this Consent Form to keep and refer to at any time. If you are willing to participate in this study, please circle the appropriate responses and sign and date the declaration underneath.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Statement** | **Circle a response** |
| I agree that the research project named above has been explained to me to my satisfaction in verbal and/or written form | YES / NO |
| I understand that if I decide at any other time during the research that I no longer wish to participate in this project, I can notify the researchers involved and be withdrawn from it immediately | YES / NO |
| I have read both the notes written above and the Information Sheet about the project, and understand what the research study involves | YES / NO |
| I agree to take part in the study, which will include use of my personal data | YES / NO |

**Participant’s Signature:**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Investigator’s Statement:**

I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ confirm that I have carefully explained the nature, demands and any foreseeable risks (where applicable) of the proposed research to the volunteer and provided a copy of this form

1. This is found at: <http://www.arcs.qmul.ac.uk/media/arcs/policyzone/Privacy-Notice-for-Research-Participants.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)