

# Information Sheet: Understanding Diagrams A

The aim of this experiment is to investigate the effect of diagrammatic variations on user understanding.

The experiment will take about an hour to complete.

At the start of the experiment, a short tutorial will be presented, and worked examples of the tasks you will need to perform. Several diagrams will then be displayed individually on the computer screen, each with a question. Using the keyboard, you should type your answer to the question and press return.

Your answers and response times will be recorded. The next diagram will appear automatically when you have typed your answer, or after a time-out period. This process will continue until all the diagrams have been presented. Please try and answer the questions as accurately as possible within the given time-out period.

At the end of the experiment, you will be asked to complete a questionnaire, and you will receive a reward of £5.

All results will be held in strict confidence, ensuring the privacy of all participants. No personal participant information will be stored with the data. Online data will be stored in a password protected computer account; paper data will be kept in a single-occupant locked office.

A feedback email message will be sent to all participants, after the data has been analysed.

Your participation in this experiment will have no effect on your marks for any subject at this, or any other university.

Please note that it is the diagrams, not you, that are being evaluated. You may withdraw from the experiment at anytime without prejudice, and any data already recorded will be discarded

If you have any further questions regarding this experiment, please contact:

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*This study adheres to the BPS ethical guidelines, and has been approved by the FIMS ethics committee of The University of Glasgow (ref: FIMS0050). Whilst you are free to discuss your participation in this study with the researcher (contactable on 330 4484), if you would like to speak to someone not involved in the study, you may contact the chair of the FIMS Ethics Committee (<http://ethics.ims.gla.ac.uk/>).*