**Gambling Addiction Research Instructions**

The cognitive theory of addiction emphasises the central role of cognitive biases. These are the many distorted ways of thinking about probability and chance that addicted gamblers apparently demonstrate. It would be ethically risky to conduct research with people who are addicted to gambling but we might expect to find some differences in probability related thinking between people who gamble regularly and those who do not.

Ethics and standardisation are really important in psychological research. This means you need to ensure that you are doing the research in exactly the same way for each participant and that you are ensuring that your research is as ethical as possible.

Once you have created the consent form, questionnaire and debrief sheet, go through the ethics checklist and modify if you need to. Then, show me and once approved, then you can start going and collecting data.

Consent form

A consent form needs a paragraph explaining what research you are conducting (but you don’t want to give too much detail as you want their genuine responses rather than the ones they think you want - known as demand characteristics).

You also need to explain that taking part is voluntary, what they will be expected to do, that their results will be anonymised, and that they can withdraw at any time (until after they have been debriefed).

You then need to include in your consent form a table which participants must fill in before you give them the questionnaire. You should aim to get at least 10 participants. Print out 1 copy of the consent form.

Table EG:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Participant No. | Age | Gender | Date | Signature |
| 1 |  |  |  |  |
| 2 |  |  |  |  |
| ... |  |  |  |  |

The questionnaire

Type up the questionnaire you created. Print out a copy of this questionnaire for each participant.

Debrief

You need to write a debrief sheet and print out a copy for each participant to take away with them.

This is a paragraph explaining what research you are conducting (give full detail) and what you were hoping to find and why (with reference to theory/research). You also need to remind them that their results will be anonymised, that they can still withdraw right now and thank them for taking part.

Also, give my email (ret@godalming.ac.uk) and tell them to contact me if they have any concerns or questions about the research. You should also give them your email too.

Ethics check

* Do participants know it is voluntary to take part?
* Do participants know what to expect?
* Do participants know they can withdraw at any time?
* Are the individuals’ results anonymous?
* Have I minimised the risk of distress to participants?
* Have I avoided answering sensitive questions?
* Will I avoid bringing my school/teacher/psychology into disrepute?
* Have I considered all ethical issues?
* Has my teacher approved this?