

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

EXPERIMENT 1

QUESTIONNAIRE – PAST AND FUTURE CONDITIONS

The written instructions for the past condition are presented on the following pages. Any deviations of the future condition from the past condition are shown in square brackets. Comments that weren't included in the questionnaire are shown in italics and square brackets.

You're going to participate in an experiment on the psychology of thought. We ask you to read and follow the instructions carefully. First, you have to play a game. Its rules are explained in detail below.

"SCRAMBLE-WORD QUIZZES"

Your task is to find a 6 letter word in each of the 12 grids presented on the next page. This word must be readable by moving from one letter to another.

The game's rules are as follows:

- In each grid there is only one 6 letter word (belonging to the Italian language). You have to find it and write it down in the space provided next to the grid.
- In each grid you should only look for a 6 letter word (there may also be 3, 4 or 5 letter words).
- The first letter of the word can be any of the 8 letters present in the grid.
- The letters can be linked:
 - vertically
 - horizontally
 - diagonally

○ vertically

E.g.:

N	A	V	S
Q	O	D	I

○ horizontally

E.g.:

N	A	V	S
Q	O	D	I

○ diagonally

E.g.:

N	A	V	S
Q	O	D	I

- You can link only adjoining letters.

E.g.:

N	A	V	S
Q	O	D	I

YES

N	A	V	S
Q	O	D	I

NO

- Each letter in the grid can only be used once to form the word.
- You don't necessarily have to solve the grids in the given order.
- You have 2 minutes and 15 seconds to complete this task.

Example of a solved grid:

N	A	V	S
Q	O	D	I

Divano
[trans.: couch]

Example of an unsolved grid; try to find the word! The solution is in the next page...

T	I	Q	M
A	Z	T	A

Did you find the word? It's MATITA [trans.: pencil]

T	T	Q	M
A	Z	T	A

Matita

Now, if everything is clear, you can begin the game. Otherwise you can ask for further explanation.

When you're ready, tell the experimenter and turn the page. Then you can start the game.

[The scramble-word quizzes are presented below: participants had to solve them in 2:15 minutes. When the time was up, they were informed and they were asked to turn the page.]

U	E	U	T
L	K	N	N

A	O	V	Z
H	L	T	A

S	R	A	O
O	I	Y	R

H	K	E	M
O	C	I	N

T	T	J	G
Q	A	O	R

R	E	D	K
N	O	I	B

O	Q	D	A
F	R	U	H

H	E	T	S
T	A	E	L

K	C	M	H
A	A	U	L

E	N	L	O
X	A	U	V

N	E	O	X
I	D	R	I

T	E	A	A
S	S	M	L

You have just played “Scramble-word quizzes”. In a few moments you will play again. Before starting the next game, we ask you to fill in the following questionnaire.

Age:

Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female

Type of high school attended (e.g. senior high school specializing in classical studies or specializing in science, technical school etc.):

.....

University Faculty:.....

Degree course:

- ☐ Bachelor’s programme
- ☐ Master’s programme
- ☐ Single-cycle master’s programme

Course year (1°, 2°, 3° ...):

Roughly how many exams (complete exams, not units) did you pass?

- ☐ from 0 to 5
- ☐ from 5 to 10
- ☐ more than 10

A few minutes ago, you played “Scramble-word quizzes”.

How do you assess your performance?

Please, rate your performance on the following 7-point scale, where -3 corresponds to “faulty performance” and 3 corresponds to “perfect performance” (intermediate values correspond to intermediate judgments). Cross the number that best represents your rating.

-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3
Faulty performance			Neither bad nor good performance			Perfect performance

If you solved all 12 grids in time, please return the questionnaire to the experimenter. Otherwise, before starting the new game, please complete the following sentence:

“Things would have been better for me if...” [“Things will be better for me in the next game if...”]

Write at least one way in which you would complete this sentence.

- 1)
-
- 2)
-
- 3)
-

What result do you think you will get in the next game?

Please give your rating using the following 11-point scale, where -5 corresponds to “certainly worse” and 5 corresponds to “certainly better” (intermediate values correspond to intermediate judgments). Cross the number that best represents your judgment.

-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5
Certainly worse					Neither worse nor better					Certainly better

Thank you for completing the questionnaire. Now, you will play the game again, but with different grids and solutions. The rules are the same. When you’re ready, tell the experimenter and turn the page. Then you can start the game.

[The scramble-word quizzes are presented below. Participants had to solve them in 2:15 minutes. When the time was up, they were informed and the experiment ended.]

A	I	O	D
U	Q	C	C

N	I	P	H
O	J	N	A

A	E	L	Q
N	A	B	L

A	P	C	X
R	O	E	Q

O	M	A	W
N	I	G	C

K	I	N	Q
O	C	A	M

T	O	C	A
A	X	R	L

A	I	P	Q
C	N	A	O

O	T	M	I
S	U	B	J

L	O	G	E
Y	A	T	G

O	I	A	R
K	H	O	S

A	I	A	S
R	C	A	C
