

Standardised experimental instructions

All participants read the following instructions prior to completing the task.

“The experimenter will ask you to take a seat and to comfortably position yourself so that you can see into the box with your head against the rest.

You will be given a joy pad controller; the experimenter will indicate two buttons, [1] and [2], which will be used in the experiment to provide answers. When the experiment begins you will be shown the reference illumination. Then there will be two subsequent illuminations, you are asked to signal which is most like the reference, using either of the buttons, [1] denoting the first illumination is most similar, or [2] for the second illumination.

Each trial will be preceded by two beeps, and then the reference illumination will be presented.

A further beep will occur before each comparison illumination. There are four blocks in the experiment, each block taking around 15 minutes. You will hear 4 beeps at the end of each block. When the block has ended, there will be a short break before continuing. It is the purpose of this experiment to assess your thresholds of discrimination of illuminations under different conditions.

Please signal the experimenter if you feel that you would like a break, or would like to withdraw from the study; which can be done at any time. Your data will be kept anonymous and will only be used for data analysis purposes as part of a body of data.”