**Participant Information Sheet**

**Study Title**: The effect of conscientiousness on performance on a speech in noise test under different listening conditions

**Researcher**: Iman Rawas

**ERGO number: 67665**

You are being invited to take part in the above research study. To help you decide whether you would like to take part or not, it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please read the information below carefully and ask questions if anything is not clear or you would like more information before you decide to take part in this research. You may like to discuss it with others but it is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you are happy to participate you will be asked to sign a consent form.

**What is the research about?**

This experiment is part of a PhD project related to developing functional hearing tests in Arabic for occupational testing purposes in Saudi Arabia. I (Iman Rawas) am a PhD student at the University of Southampton and King Abdul-Aziz University. The experiment is looking at measuring the effect of certain personality traits on the performance in an Arabic speech-in-noise test I have developed.

**Why have I been asked to participate?**

You have been invited to participate because the test requires healthy, normal hearingfluent Arabic speaking individuals within the age range likely to enrol in the military.

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**What will happen to me if I take part?**

First, you will be asked to fill out a personality questionnaire. This should take no more than 15 minutes. If you are below 18 years of age, your guardian will read this document and if you and your guardian both agree to participate and sign the consent form, the questionnaire will be sent to you. Then based on your results you may be invited to take the developed hearing test. You will be asked to listen to some sentences in background noise and to recall what you have heard by selecting options on a computer screen. Sometimes it will be easy to hear the speech and sometimes it will be difficult, you need to respond every time even if you are not sure what you heard. When you are not sure of what you heard, you will have to guess.

There will be three sessions done in one sitting, each lasting 10 minutes. Before the first session we will do screening tests to check you have normal hearing and your ears are healthy. You will also be asked to fill in a questionnaire regarding the health of your ears. Providing you have normal hearing and healthy ears, and you are happy to continue, we will proceed to listening to sentences in background noise running through laptop. The results of the test will be automatically recorded in the computer.

You will be offered regular breaks throughout the session and can take a break whenever you need to. If you are interested in knowing your results after the session, they will be discussed with you.

**Are there any benefits in my taking part?**

There will be no direct benefit to you as an individual other than knowing the status of your hearing, however by taking part you will contribute to a body of knowledge regarding adult specific hearing requirements.

**Are there any risks involved?**

There are no risks involved in this study. The levels of noise that you will be exposed to will be no different to that of everyday life.

**What data will be collected?**

No data other than your responses to the sentences will be recorded

**Will my participation be confidential?**

Your participation and the information we collect about you during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential.

Only the Only members of the research team and responsible members of the University of Southampton may be given access to the anonymized data about you for monitoring purposes and/or to carry out an audit of the study to ensure that the research is complying with applicable regulations. Individuals from regulatory authorities (people who check that we are carrying out the study correctly) may require access to your data. All these people have a duty to keep your information, as a research participant, strictly confidential.

Any information that is disclosed (name, date of birth) will be kept securely within the university under password protection and will be compliant with the Data Protection Act and University Policy. During data collection, it will be possible to link your results with your name, but this information will only be available to the primary researcher (Iman Rawas) and will be destroyed once data collection is complete.

**Do I have to take part?**

No, it is entirely up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you decide you want to take part, you will need to sign a consent form to show you have agreed to take part.

If you agree to take part, please contact the primary investigator on the contact information provided below.

**What happens if I change my mind?**

You have the right to change your mind and withdraw at any time without giving a reason and without your participant rights being affected.

Should you choose to withdraw please inform the primary investigator through the contact information provided below

If you withdraw from the study, we will keep the information about you that we have already obtained for the purposes of achieving the objectives of the study only.

**What will happen to the results of the research?**

Your personal details will remain strictly confidential. Research findings made available in any reports or publications will not include information that can directly identify you without your specific consent. The results will be published as part of the PhD thesis of the primary investigator. If you don’t wish for your data to be used directly or retrospectively, the data collected will be erased as per the regulations of (the right to be forgotten).

**Where can I get more information?**

For further information and for setting session meetings should you agree to participate in this study please don’t hesitate to contact Dr Iman Rawas ([i.o.rawas@soton.ac.uk](mailto:i.o.rawas@soton.ac.uk)) mobile: +966505699437

**What happens if there is a problem?**

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should speak to the researchers who will do their best to answer your questions.

If you remain unhappy or have a complaint about any aspect of this study, please contact the University of Southampton Research Integrity and Governance Manager (023 8059 5058, [rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk](mailto:rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk)).

**Data Protection Privacy Notice**

The University of Southampton conducts research to the highest standards of research integrity. As a publicly-funded organisation, the University has to ensure that it is in the public interest when we use personally-identifiable information about people who have agreed to take part in research. This means that when you agree to take part in a research study, we will use information about you in the ways needed, and for the purposes specified, to conduct and complete the research project. Under data protection law, ‘Personal data’ means any information that relates to and is capable of identifying a living individual. The University’s data protection policy governing the use of personal data by the University can be found on its website (<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/legalservices/what-we-do/data-protection-and-foi.page>).

This Participant Information Sheet tells you what data will be collected for this project and whether this includes any personal data. Please ask the research team if you have any questions or are unclear what data is being collected about you.

Our privacy notice for research participants provides more information on how the University of Southampton collects and uses your personal data when you take part in one of our research projects and can be found at <http://www.southampton.ac.uk/assets/sharepoint/intranet/ls/Public/Research%20and%20Integrity%20Privacy%20Notice/Privacy%20Notice%20for%20Research%20Participants.pdf>

Any personal data we collect in this study will be used only for the purposes of carrying out our research and will be handled according to the University’s policies in line with data protection law. If any personal data is used from which you can be identified directly, it will not be disclosed to anyone else without your consent unless the University of Southampton is required by law to disclose it.

Data protection law requires us to have a valid legal reason (‘lawful basis’) to process and use your Personal data. The lawful basis for processing personal information in this research study is for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest. Personal data collected for research will not be used for any other purpose.

For the purposes of data protection law, the University of Southampton is the ‘Data Controller’ for this study, which means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly. The University of Southampton will keep identifiable information about you for 10 years after the study has finished after which time any link between you and your information will be removed.

To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personal data necessary to achieve our research study objectives. Your data protection rights – such as to access, change, or transfer such information - may be limited, however, in order for the research output to be reliable and accurate. The University will not do anything with your personal data that you would not reasonably expect.

If you have any questions about how your personal data is used, or wish to exercise any of your rights, please consult the University’s data protection webpage (https://www.southampton.ac.uk/legalservices/what-we-do/data-protection-and-foi.page) where you can make a request using our online form. If you need further assistance, please contact the University’s Data Protection Officer ([data.protection@soton.ac.uk](mailto:data.protection@soton.ac.uk)).

Collected personal data will be anonymised i.e. when it is deleted, research data cannot be traced back to you.

**Thank you for taking your time to read about this experiment and considering participation**