Survey Questionnaire

Below is the list of questions asked, excluding administrative questions and the consent form.

Block: Attention Check 1

In this study, we are interested in your views on British history. We also need to make sure that participants are reading the questions fully. Please select "Strongly disagree" from the list below.

- ○ Strongly agree
- ○ Agree
- ○ Neither agree nor disagree
- ○ Disagree
- ○ Strongly disagree

Block: Pre-Treatment National ID (order randomised)

In politics people sometimes talk of “left” and “right”. Where would you place yourself on this scale, where 0 means left and 10 means right?

On a scale of 0 (not at all attached) to 10 (very attached), how emotionally attached do you feel to Britain?

On a scale of 0 (not at all) to 10 (very much), to what extent do you see yourself as a typical British person?

Block: Treatment texts (2 per participant, randomised as per the article)

Control Text 1

Please read the following text before moving to the next section.

The sport of basketball was invented by James Naismith, a physical education instructor in Springfield, Massachusetts. It was originally devised as a way for athletes to exercise indoors during cold winter months, but quickly grew into a popular sport in its own right, particularly after the establishment of the National Basketball Association (NBA). Today it is one of the world's most popular sports.

Control Text 2

Please read the following text before moving to the next section.

The sport of volleyball was invented by William Morgan, a physical education director in Holyoke, Massachusetts. It was intended to be a form of indoor exercise that involved less physical contact than basketball. It was originally called 'mintonette', a name derived from badminton – a game with which it shares similarities. Like basketball, it has become one of the most popular sports around the world.

Treatment Text 1

Please read the following text before moving to the next section.

Many harmful acts were carried out by the forces of the British Empire in colonised territories such as India. In 1919, for example, in what is known as the Jallianwala Bagh massacre British troops fired into a crowd of unarmed civilians in Amritsar, a city in the Punjab region. At least **379 people** were killed in the massacre, including children, and over 1200 people were injured.

Treatment Text 2

Please read the following text before moving to the next section.

What is now the Democratic Republic of Congo was once under Belgian control in the late 1800s and early 1900s. This period is associated with brutal exploitation and a range of horrific atrocities: Congolese people were forced into gruelling labour, and many people were murdered, mutilated or tortured. It is estimated that approximately **10 million people** were killed during this period due to violence, disease and famine.

Block: Outcomes (order randomised)

On a scale of 0 (strongly disagree) to 10 (strongly agree) how much do you agree or disagree with the idea that "Britishness" is an important part of your identity?

On a scale of 0 (never) to 10 (always), when talking about British people, how often do you say “we” instead of “they”?

On a scale of 0 (not at all close) to 10 (very close), how close do you feel to your country?

On a scale of 0 (very negative) to 10 (very positive), what do you think the impact of the British Empire has been on the world?

Upon completion of this survey, you will automatically be entered into a lottery and one participant will win £50. If you win this lottery, would you like to donate some of this money to communities in former British colonies which have been adversely affected by colonial practices?

- ○ Yes, I will donate the following amount: _____
- ○ No
- ○ I don’t want to be entered in the lottery

Block: Prejudice (order randomised)

On a scale of 0 (strongly disagree) to 10 (strongly agree) how much do you agree or disagree with the statement “It would upset me if a close relative married an Indian person”?

Here is a list of five things that sometimes make people upset. Please read all five and indicate **how many** of them upset you **in total**.

- Bankers earning large bonuses
- Increased popularity of milk alternatives (e.g. oat milk)
- The maximum speed limit of 70mph in the UK
- Hotter summers due to climate change
- An Indian family moving in next door (sensitive item, inclusion randomised)

Block: Whataboutism

On a scale or 0 (strongly disagree) to 10 (strongly agree), how much do you agree with the statement that “whilst many harms were committed in the name of the British Empire, the crimes committed by other countries were worse”?

Block: Attention Check 2

You were asked about your views on the British Empire. However, for this question we would like to check if you are paying attention. Please select '1880' from the list below.

- ○ 1850
- ○ 1860
- ○ 1870
- ○ 1880
- ○ 1890