

Method: Materials Section Example

The Big Five Inventory personality measure (John, Donahue & Kentle, 1991) was used to measure levels of conscientiousness and extraversion in participants (see appendix A). The full scale includes 44 items, however only items related to the two selected personality traits were used in this study. Eight items measured levels of extraversion and included items such as 'I am someone who is talkative' and 'I am someone who is reserved'. Responses were given on a 5-point Likert scale anchored from 1= strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree with scores subsequently ranging from one to five for each item, making final scores obtained from this scale between eight and 40. There were three negatively worded items in this scale that required reverse-scoring prior to analysis. Internal reliability for the extraversion scale in this study was initiated to be .81, similar to the reliability reported by John, Donahue and Kentle (1991) (Cronbach's alpha = .83).

Levels of conscientiousness were measured using nine items from the same scale. This scale included questions such as 'I am someone who tends to be disorganised' and 'I am someone who does a thorough job'. Responses were again given on a 5-point Likert scale anchored between strongly disagree and strongly agree. Final scores obtained from this questionnaire were between nine and 45. This scale contained four negatively worded items that required reverse-scoring prior to analysis. Internal reliability for the conscientiousness scale in the current study was slightly lower than in previous literature (alpha = .63, compared to .79 in John, Donahue & Kentle, 1991).