•Hazard analysis

•Consent forms

•Protocols

•Briefing/Debriefing

•Examples





•Hazard analysis

Conduct before all experimentation to ensure no participants or practitioners are placed in an unsafe environment or situation

May involve Departmental or University Health & Safety Officers

Shared responsibility between the practitioner, supervisor, and official bodies



ELECTRICAL HAZARD AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY

•Hazard analysis – Understand, Predict, Prepare!

Predict and prepare for any eventualities that may occur during experimentation

Includes RISKS participants may be exposed to: human health, environmental, and data protection/access to personal information

Consent Form informs participants what they are signing up for!



•Consent Forms

Confidentiality of information/data must be expressed

Visual/Auditory data should be restricted to research team only

Indicate ways in which your research and the participants input may become public (journals, papers etc.)

Offer to send copies of completed work

Ensure participants are aware they can discontinue participation *at any time* 



•Consent Forms – administration

Good practice to ask participants to read consent forms, then the practitioner verbalise it to the participant, prior to them signing

You can't always tell the participant *exactly* what will happen in the experiment, but you should provide enough information so they are prepared for what they will experience

User Centred Research = Person-centred approach:

Individuals from diverse backgrounds with diverse abilities, experimentation cannot be conducted to the detriment of personal well being / self belief – discuss implications with Ethics Committee



•Protocols

Maintains consistency

Minimises encroachment of extraneous variables – helps to ensure only the variables *your* interested in are examined, and that the only differences in participant performance are due to the individual differences of participants themselves



•Protocols & Consistency

Consistency of Laboratory Environments: Lighting, Noise, Ambient Temperature

Consistency of Experimental Procedure and Apparatus

Randomisation of tasks if task-order-effects (learning) are an issue



•Debriefing

Post-experimental discussion, placing current research in the context of the subject area, and the participants contribution

Prepare for likely questions – they will have spent the experiment hypothesising about what / why they are being assessed

Clear understating of research area and participants contribution

Useful opportunity to remind participants of their availability to copies of completed work and data confidentiality