**Ethical Issues in Psychology**

1. *Read the following study and highlight all the ethical issues you think may be a problem in this research. Label each one according to which ethical issue you think it relates to*

A psychologist wanted to carry out a study to see whether or not people who are deprived of food become more aggressive when they encounter a stressor (something that makes you stressed), than those who are not deprived of food.

The psychologist did not want the participants to know what the study was about as she feared it may affect their behaviour in the experiment. Therefore, she put up a poster in her university, advertising for volunteers to come forward to take part in a study on group behaviour. She then randomly selected 60 people from those that expressed an interest. When they arrived at the university, they were randomly allocated either to condition A or condition B.

All participants were asked to wait in a room (individually) for the experiment to begin. They were then told that there was a delay in starting the experiment as some of the other participants had not arrived. They were told that they would have to wait in the room until the other participants got there. Each participant was held in the room for three hours, but those in condition A were offered sandwiches and drinks, while those in condition B were left without refreshments. If any participant objected to the wait, or asked to leave, they were strongly discouraged and told that they would ruin the experiment if they left.

After the three hours pass, a confederate of the experimenter enters the room, pretending to be another participant. They act in a very agitated way and start an argument with the participant, using threatening and abusive language, accusing them of being responsible for the delay. Unbeknown to the participant, the interaction between the participant and the confederate was filmed using a secret camera, so that the psychologist could analyse their reactions following the procedure to determine whether the food-deprived group reacted more aggressively than the non-food-deprived group. After a five minute period, the experimenter enters the room and tells the participant that the experiment has been abandoned and that they are free to leave.

After the experiment had been completed, a television company learned that the university was carrying out research into anger and its relationship to lack of food. They contacted the university asking if they could use the film footage from the experiment in a forthcoming documentary they were making on the subject. They offered a fee to the university in return. The university accepted and handed over the film. Clips of the participants’ reactions in the two conditions were used in the documentary.

1. *Use what you know about dealing with ethical issues to suggest* ***three*** *improvements to the study*

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