

# Peer prediction markets to elicit unverifiable information

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## Abstract

This paper introduces an incentive mechanism to elicit subjective judgments. We consider binary questions where responses cannot be verified for accuracy. Self-reported information may not reflect the truth due to lack of cognitive effort or motives to lie. In our formal framework, agents choose whether to receive a costly private signal, which lead them to endorse either “yes” or “no” as an answer. Then, they either buy or sell a single unit of an asset, whose value is determined by the endorsement rate of “yes” answers. The price of the asset is set at the prior expectation of the endorsement rate. We obtain a separating equilibrium, where agents choose to receive a costly private signal and buy or sell the asset as a function of their signal. Trades reflect agents’ true unverifiable information. Two experimental studies test the theoretical results. The first study shows that peer prediction markets motivate agents to seek costly information and reveal it in a simple prediction task. The second study implements an online field experiment to demonstrate feasibility in a natural setting. We find that agents in a peer prediction market are more likely to truthfully self-report socially stigmatized behavior that they can easily deny without being caught.

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# 1 Introduction

“Have you stood less than 6 feet apart from another person in a queue yesterday?” Health surveys often require respondents to recollect past experiences. This experience can be seen as a private signal that a respondent acquire by exerting effort (recalling, to their mind, what they did a day earlier.) But how can we ensure that the respondents will, first, provide such effort and then, answer truthfully if there is no way to compare their answer to some truth?

Starting with Crémer and McLean (1988), the mechanism design literature has explored ways to reveal private signals. Miller et al. (2005), and more broadly the peer-prediction literature (Witkowski and Parkes, 2012b, 2013; Liu and Chen, 2017a), have proposed solutions exploiting the informativeness of a respondent’s answer in predicting their peers’ answers. For instance, imagine that we have some prior expectations about the rate of yes answers to the 6-feet-apart question. A respondent answering yes increases our expectations about the proportion of *other* people answering yes. Formally, this increase is a simple application of Bayesian updating when respondents draw a private signal (yes/no), with unknown probability  $p$  of yes signals: a yes signal makes higher values of  $p$  more likely than initially believed.<sup>1</sup> Intuitively, the yes answer to the 6-feet-apart question can suggest that others also had difficulty complying with a social distancing guidelines.

In this paper, we propose and implement a novel solution to incentivize private signals acquisition and revelation: a peer-prediction market (PPM). In a PPM, yes respondents are rewarded with the formula “yes answer rate - prior expectations of yes answer rate”. Those who answer no get the opposite reward. If there are fewer yes answers than expected, yes respondents get a negative reward while no respondents get a positive one. Equivalently, a PPM can be presented as yes (no) respondents buying (selling) a single asset, the value of which is eventually determined by the proportion of yes answers. The price is set to the prior expectations. In a situation in which the yes-answer rate is expected to follow a random

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<sup>1</sup>We assume here that signals are conditionally independent, i.e. independent given the probability of success. The probability of success is assumed to be itself drawn from a non-degenerate distribution over  $(0, 1)$ .

26 walk, a repeated PPM can be implemented in which the price at period  $t$  is the value of the  
27 asset at  $t - 1$ .

28 First, we show that signal acquisition and truthful revelation is a Bayesian Nash equi-  
29 librium, providing a partial-implementation solution to the static problem. Our solution is  
30 minimal, in the sense that it does not ask respondents to provide more than their answer and  
31 it does not require the surveyor to share more than prior expectations with the respondents.  
32 We then extend our analysis to incorporate psychological costs, capturing the possible (mild)  
33 ‘shame’ of reporting an answer and potential deception costs.

34 Second, we test PPM in an online experiment closely following the theoretical model:  
35 respondents may exert an effort (i.e., complete a real-effort task borrowed from the exper-  
36 imental economics literature) to obtain a signal and report it; or they may simply answer  
37 randomly. We compare PPM with two benchmarks: flat fee (no incentives) and accuracy  
38 incentives (incentives when the signal generation process is observable). The latter is not  
39 applicable in surveys, where such process is unobservable but it provides a gauge for the  
40 effect of PPM. A flat fee decreases the effort rate by about 20 percentage points with respect  
41 to accuracy incentives. PPM allows us to recover half of this difference.

42 Third, we demonstrate feasibility in a natural setting. We implement the repeated PPM  
43 in the context of a health survey, involving questions of the 6-feet-apart type. The asset price  
44 is set to the previous week yes-rate. We hypothesize that people not exerting recollection  
45 efforts or feeling some slight shame for not complying with health guidelines are likely to  
46 deny having experienced such situation, and therefore that PPM will trigger higher rate  
47 of yes answers than a flat fee. We indeed obtain that more people admit experiencing  
48 situations in contradictions with health guidelines in the PPM treatment than in the flat  
49 fee treatment. This second study is, in nature, more exploratory and we cannot exclude  
50 alternative explanations. However, it shows that PPM can be applied to socially relevant  
51 questions, where psychological costs of reporting non-compliance may be present.

52 *Related literature* - PPMs offer a market-based solution to the problem of incentivizing

53 effort in information elicitation without verification (Waggoner and Chen, 2013). Previous  
54 work introduced peer prediction mechanisms that consider the truthful elicitation problem  
55 only, and does not explicitly incorporate costly effort. The original peer prediction method  
56 (Miller et al., 2005) can be adjusted for costly effort via re-scaling of payments. However, the  
57 researcher has to know the full common prior belief of participants. Bayesian truth serum  
58 (Prelec, 2004) and its variants (Witkowski and Parkes, 2012a; Radanovic and Faltings, 2013,  
59 2014) do not require any knowledge of priors. But, as a result, the researcher lacks informa-  
60 tion to scale rewards appropriately for costly effort. Other authors developed peer prediction  
61 mechanisms to incentivize effort in crowdsourcing tasks in which ground truth is unverifiable.  
62 Such mechanism rely on additional structure on agents’ proficiency (Witkowski et al., 2013),  
63 multiple tasks (Dasgupta and Ghosh, 2013; Radanovic et al., 2016; Shnayder et al., 2016)  
64 or a dynamic framework (Liu and Chen, 2017b). Similar to the original peer prediction  
65 method, PPM is one-shot and ‘minimal’ (Witkowski and Parkes, 2013): agents complete a  
66 single task only. But, PPM requires less information on priors. Furthermore, PPM offers  
67 a simpler solution in binary problems compared to other peer prediction mechanisms with  
68 costly effort. The present paper is also the first of this stream of literature to include both  
69 cost of efforts and psychological costs in the model.

70 Closest to PPMs are Bayesian markets (Baillon, 2017), which provide a market solution  
71 to binary elicitation problem in a similar Bayesian setup to ours, except that information  
72 is not costly. Moreover, unlike PPM, an agent first reports her answer. She can later buy  
73 (sell) one unit of the asset only if she reported ‘yes’ (‘no’). Price is determined randomly  
74 afterwards, so the agents decide on trade options before price is observed. In equilibrium,  
75 agents report their true judgments to be eligible for their desired trade. In the way they are  
76 set-up, PPMs aim to be closer to prediction markets than Bayesian markets are. Agents can  
77 trade freely, according to their private information, at a pre-specified price.

## 2 Theory

### 2.1 Agents and their information

A *center* (a researcher, a survey company) is interested in eliciting  $N$  *agents'* informed answers to a question  $Q$ , with possible answers  $\{0, 1\}$ . Agents can answer randomly at no cost but they may also decide to provide an effort (thinking, remembering, looking for information, etc.) to obtain their informed answer. Formally, we model the informed answer as a *signal*  $\tau_i \in \{0, 1\}$ , which agent  $i \in \{1, \dots, N\}$  can obtain by providing *effort*  $e_i = 1$  at a cost  $c_i > 0$  (expressed in monetary terms). The cost of no effort ( $e_i = 0$ ) is 0. The probability of getting signal 1 is the same for all agents (hence, it is independent of the effort cost) but is unknown. We model it as a random variable  $\omega$  over  $[0, 1]$ . Denoting  $\tau = (\tau_1, \dots, \tau_N)$ , a *state of nature* is thus a realization of  $\omega$  and  $\tau$ , with the *state space* being  $\Omega = [0, 1] \times \{0, 1\}^N$ . The probability space is  $(\Omega, \Sigma, P)$ , with  $\Sigma$  the Borel  $\sigma$ -algebra of  $\Omega$  and we assume that  $P$  is countably additive. The next assumption describes the full signal technology.

**Assumption 1** (Signal technology). *The signal technology is such that for all  $i, j \in \{1 \dots, N\}$ ,  $i \neq j$ , and  $o \in [0, 1]$ :*

1.  $P(\tau_i = 1 | \omega = o) = o;$

2.  $P(\tau_i = 1 | \tau_j, \omega = o) = o;$

3. and  $P(\omega)$  is continuous over  $[0, 1]$ .

Part 1 of Assumption 1 states that the signal technology is anonymous, part 2 that it satisfies *conditional independence*, and part 3 that no value of  $\omega$  has a probability mass. The latter excludes degenerate cases in which all agents could get the same signal for sure or in which  $\omega$  would be known.

Let  $P_i$  represent the belief of agent  $i$  about the signal technology, and  $P_0$  that of the

101 center. It is common to assume  $P_i = P_0 = P$  in peer prediction mechanisms.<sup>2</sup>. We allow  
 102 agents to have different opinions on how likely various values of  $\omega$  are but the following  
 103 assumption restrict their belief in two ways.

104 **Assumption 2** (Unbiased prior expectations). *For all  $i \in \{0, \dots, N\}$ ,  $P_i$  satisfies properties*  
 105 *1-3 of Assumption 1 and  $E_i(\omega) = E(\omega)$ .*

106 Assumption 2 states that all agents and the center agree on the main properties of the  
 107 signal technology and share the same prior expectation. It is a strong assumption, despite  
 108 relaxing the often-used common prior assumption. Assumption 2 is plausible if (i) question  
 109  $Q$  is new and people have no reason to believe that answer 1 is more likely than answer 0, i.e.,  
 110  $E(\omega) = 0.5$ ; or (ii) signals of another group of agents have been publicly revealed (possibly  
 111 with another mechanism); or (iii) the agents have no clue about  $\omega$  but the center shares  
 112 her prior expectation. In case (i), we do not need to assume uniform  $P_i$  over the possible  
 113 values of  $\omega$ ; e.g., it can be bell-shaped for some agents. Case (ii) can correspond to situations  
 114 in which question  $Q$  was asked in the past (to other agents) but the center and the (new)  
 115 agents do not know whether the signal distribution will be exactly the same. For instance,  
 116 imagine that, a month ago, it was published that 73% of people reported they could always  
 117 stay 6 feet away from others. There are many reasons why this proportion might change  
 118 but before agents try to remember their own experience, 73% is a good average guess about  
 119 what others will answer. Let us denote  $\bar{\omega} \equiv E(\omega)$ ,  $\bar{\omega}_i^0 \equiv E_i(\omega|\tau_i = 0)$  and  $\bar{\omega}_i^1 \equiv E_i(\omega|\tau_i = 1)$ .

120 **Lemma 1.** *Under Assumptions 1 and 2, for all  $i \in \{1, \dots, N\}$ ,  $0 < \bar{\omega}_i^0 < \bar{\omega} < \bar{\omega}_i^1 < 1$ .*

121 *Proof.* First part 3 of Assumption 1 excludes  $\bar{\omega} \in \{0, 1\}$ .

122 Second,  $P_i(\tau_i = 1) = \int_0^1 P_i(\tau_i = 1|\omega = o) \times P_i(\omega = o)do = \int_0^1 o \times P_i(\omega = o)do = E_i(\omega) =$   
 123  $\bar{\omega}$ .  $\bar{\omega}_i^1 = \int_0^1 \frac{P_i(\tau_i=1|\omega=o) \times P_i(\omega=o) \times o}{P_i(\tau_i=1)} do = \int_0^1 \frac{o^2 \times P_i(\omega=o)}{\bar{\omega}} do > \bar{\omega}$  because  $\int_0^1 o^2 \times P_i(\omega = o) >$   
 124  $\left(\int_0^1 o \times P_i(\omega = o)\right)^2 = \bar{\omega}^2$  by Jensen's inequality applied to the convex squared function and

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<sup>2</sup>Or  $P_i = P$  with no assumption on  $P_0$  in the Bayesian truth-serum of (Prelec, 2004) or Bayesian markets of (Baillon, 2017)

125 the inequality is strict because we degenerate cases were excluded by Part 3 of Assumption 1,  
126 which also excludes a posterior expectation of 1. The proof of  $0 < \bar{\omega}_i^0 < \bar{\omega}$  is symmetric.  $\square$

127 Lemma 1 shows that under our assumptions, all agents receiving signal 1 have higher  
128 expectations about  $\omega$  than they had ex ante (and than the center) whereas agents with  
129 signal 0 decrease their expectations. Finally, we make the following assumption on agents'  
130 risk preferences:

131 **Assumption 3** (Risk neutrality). *Agents are risk neutral.*

132 Assumption 3 implies that agents maximize their expected payoffs. Section 2.2 intro-  
133 duces a market mechanism to exploit the difference in expectations established in Lemma 1.  
134 Assumption 3 suggests that agents' optimal strategy will not depend on a risk parameter.

## 135 2.2 The Market

136 The center implements a *peer-prediction market* for  $Q$ , in which an asset is traded whose  
137 value will be the proportion of agents reporting 1 as answer for  $Q$  multiplied by  $\pi$ , a scaling  
138 constant. If the currency is the dollar,  $\pi = 10$  means that the asset is worth \$5 if 50% of the  
139 agents report 1.

140 **Definition 1.** *A peer-prediction market is defined by the following steps:*

- 141 1. *The center announces the asset price  $\bar{\omega}\pi$ .*
- 142 2. *Agents simultaneously choose a report  $r_i \in \{0, 1\}$ . Those who report 1 become buyers  
143 of the asset and those who report 0 become sellers.*
- 144 3. *The center computes the asset value  $\bar{r}\pi = \frac{\pi}{N} \sum_{i=1}^n r_i$ .*
- 145 4. *If  $\bar{r} = 0$  or  $\bar{r} = 1$ , the market is stopped; no payment occurs.*
- 146 5. *Otherwise, buyers pay  $\bar{\omega}\pi$  to the center in exchange of  $\bar{r}\pi$  and sellers receive  $\bar{\omega}\pi$  from  
147 the center in exchange of  $\bar{r}\pi$ .*

148 In a peer-prediction market, reporting a 1 answer ( $r_i = 1$ ) is equivalent to betting that  
149 the proportion of 1 answers will be higher than  $\bar{\omega}$ , that is, buying the asset. Symmetrically,  
150 reporting a 0 answer is a bet on a proportion of 1 answers lower than  $\bar{\omega}$ . Step 5 specifies that  
151 all trades are made with the center, and not directly between agents. Direct trading would  
152 lead to complications such as the no-trade theorem (Milgrom and Stokey, 1982): knowing  
153 that someone wants to sell informs the buyer that someone received a 0 signal, and conversely.  
154 Ultimately, agents who report 1 get  $(\bar{r} - \bar{\omega})\pi$  and those who report 0 get  $(\bar{\omega} - \bar{r})\pi$ . The  
155 center subsidizes the market if need be. The agents subtract  $c_i$  from their earnings if they  
156 provided an effort.

## 157 2.3 Strategies and Equilibria

158 The agents' strategies in the peer-prediction market involve first deciding whether to  
159 exert an effort, and then what to report. We will consider mixed strategies only in reports,  
160 so agent  $i$ 's strategy is given by  $(e_i, R_i, R_i^0, R_i^1)$  with  $R_i$ ,  $R_i^0$ , and  $R_i^1$  the probabilities of  
161  $r_i = 1$  if  $e_i = 0$ , if  $e_i = 1$  and  $\tau_i = 0$ , and if  $e_i = 1$  and  $\tau_i = 1$  respectively. The strategy  
162 space is thus  $\{0, 1\} \times [0, 1]^3$ . The center is interested in situations in which agent  $i$  exerts an  
163 effort and answers truthfully, i.e.,  $e_i = 1$ ,  $R_i^0 = 0$ , and  $R_i^1 = 1$ . We need to make one final  
164 assumption, about what agents know about each others.

165 **Assumption 4** (Common knowledge). *The peer-prediction market functioning, the strategy*  
166 *space, the signal technology, the beliefs  $P_i$ , the costs  $c_i$  and agents' risk neutrality are common*  
167 *knowledge.*

168 Assumption 4 ensures that we have specified all the elements of a *Bayesian game*, as  
169 defined by (Osborne and Rubinstein, 1994, Definition 25.1). If beliefs and costs were not  
170 common knowledge, we would have to define higher-order beliefs, which would complicate the  
171 proofs. As we will see below the crucial part is not so much that agents know the exact beliefs  
172 of everyone, but rather that all agents know that Lemma 1 holds. Again for convenience,



173 we let  $N \rightarrow \infty$ . It allows us to assimilate signal probability with signal proportion. It also  
 174 allows us to neglect the impact of a single agent on the asset value.

175 **Proposition 1.** *Under Assumptions 1 to 4 and with  $N$  infinite, if  $c_i > \pi$  for all  $i \in$   
 176  $\{1, \dots, N\}$ , then Nash equilibria are characterized by  $e_i = 0$  and  $R_i \in \{0, \bar{\omega}, 1\}$ . Expected  
 177 payoffs are 0.*

178 *Proof.* Possible earnings  $(\bar{r} - \bar{\omega})\pi$  and  $(\bar{\omega} - \bar{r})\pi$  are both strictly lower than  $\pi$ , and therefore  
 179 than  $c_i$  if  $c_i > \pi$ . There are no incentives to provide efforts; hence,  $e_i = 0$ . Consider agent  $i$   
 180 and assume all other agents  $j \neq i$  have the same probability to report 1 ( $R_j = R$  for some  
 181  $R \in [0, 1]$ ). Hence, with  $N$  infinite, the asset value  $\bar{r}$  is  $R$ . Agent  $i$  hence expects to earn  
 182  $[R_i \times (R - \bar{\omega}) + (1 - R_i) \times (\bar{\omega} - R)] \times \pi$ . If  $R \in (\bar{\omega}, 1]$ , then  $R_i = 1$  is optimal. If  $R \in [0, \bar{\omega})$ ,  
 183 then  $R_i = 0$  is optimal. Finally, if  $R = \bar{\omega}$ , then any  $R_i \in [0, 1]$  is optimal. Nash equilibria  
 184 require  $R_i = R$  such that no one has incentives to deviate. Hence, we must have either  
 185  $R_i = 1$  for all  $i$ , or  $R_i = 0$  for all  $i$ , or  $R_i = \bar{\omega}$  for all  $i$ . In all these cases, earnings are 0  
 186 (remember that if  $\bar{r} = 0$  or 1, no payoffs occur as specified in step 4 of Definition 1.  $\square$ )

187 **Proposition 2.** *Under Assumptions 1 to 4 and with  $N$  infinite, if for all  $i \in \{1, \dots, N\}$   
 188  $\frac{c_i}{\pi} < \bar{\omega} \times (\bar{\omega}_i^1 - \bar{\omega}) + (1 - \bar{\omega}) (\bar{\omega} - \bar{\omega}_i^0)$ , providing an effort and reporting truthfully ( $e_i = 1$ ,  
 189  $R_i^0 = 0$ , and  $R_i^1 = 1$ ) is a Nash equilibrium, and it strictly dominates the no-effort equilibria.*

190

191 *Proof.* Let us consider agent  $i$ 's view point and assume  $e_j = 1$ ,  $R_j^0 = 0$ , and  $R_j^1 = 1$  for all  $j \neq$   
 192  $i$ . Without any signal, agent  $i$ 's expected earnings are  $[R_i (E_i(\omega) - \bar{\omega}) + (1 - R_i) (\bar{\omega} - E_i(\omega))]$   
 193  $\times \pi = 0$  by Assumption 2.

194 With signal 1, agent  $i$ 's expected earnings are  $[R_i^1 (\bar{\omega}_i^1 - \bar{\omega}) + (1 - R_i^1) (\bar{\omega} - \bar{\omega}_i^1)] \times \pi$ . By  
 195 Lemma 1, this is maximum for  $R_i^1 = 1$ , yielding  $(\bar{\omega}_i^1 - \bar{\omega}) \times \pi > 0$ .

196 With signal 0, agent  $i$ 's expected earnings are  $[R_i^0 (\bar{\omega}_i^0 - \bar{\omega}) + (1 - R_i^0) (\bar{\omega} - \bar{\omega}_i^0)] \times \pi$ . By  
 197 Lemma 1 again, this is maximum for  $R_i^0 = 0$ , yielding  $(\bar{\omega} - \bar{\omega}_i^0) \times \pi > 0$ .

Before getting a signal, the expected gain is therefore,

$$[P_i(\tau_i = 1) \times (\bar{\omega}_i^1 - \bar{\omega}) + P_i(\tau_i = 0) (\bar{\omega} - \bar{\omega}_i^0)] \times \pi = [\bar{\omega} \times (\bar{\omega}_i^1 - \bar{\omega}) + (1 - \bar{\omega}) (\bar{\omega} - \bar{\omega}_i^0)] \times \pi.$$

198 This is strictly positive by construction and strictly more than  $c_i$  by assumption. Hence, the  
 199 net earnings (once the costs are subtracted) are strictly positive and providing an effort is  
 200 worth it. As a consequence,  $e_i = 1$ ,  $R_i^0 = 0$ , and  $R_i^1 = 1$  is a Nash equilibrium.

Finally, let us consider the case in which all agents but  $i$  provide no efforts and report 1 with probability  $R$ . The expected earnings are

$$\begin{cases} [R_i^1 \times (R - \bar{\omega}) + (1 - R_i^1) \times (\bar{\omega} - R)] \times \pi & \text{with signal 1} \\ [R_i^0 \times (R - \bar{\omega}) + (1 - R_i^0) \times (\bar{\omega} - R)] \times \pi & \text{with signal 0} \\ [R_i \times (R - \bar{\omega}) + (1 - R_i) \times (\bar{\omega} - R)] \times \pi & \text{with no signal.} \end{cases}$$

201 As in Proposition 1, the only equilibria must be of the form  $R_i = R \in \{0, \omega, 1\}$ , and  
 202 by similar arguments  $R_i^1 = R_i^0 = R \in \{0, \omega, 1\}$ . The earnings are always 0 and the net  
 203 earnings with effort are even strictly negative. Hence,  $e_i = 0$ ,  $R_i \in \{0, \omega, 1\}$  is also a Nash  
 204 equilibrium (with  $R_i^1 = R_i^0 = R_i$ ) but it is dominated by the equilibrium with effort and  
 205 truthful reporting ( $e_i = 1$ ,  $R_i^0 = 0$ , and  $R_i^1 = 1$ ).  $\square$

206 **Proposition 3.** *Under Assumptions 1 to 4 and with  $N$  infinite, if for  $T \times 100\%$  of the  
 207 agents  $\frac{c_i}{\pi} > \bar{\omega} \times (T\bar{\omega} + (1 - T)\bar{\omega}_i^1 - \bar{\omega}) + (1 - \bar{\omega}) (\bar{\omega} - T\bar{\omega} - (1 - T)\bar{\omega}_i^0)$  and the inequality is  
 208 reversed for the remaining agents, then there is a Nash equilibrium in which these  $T \times 100\%$   
 209 will exert no efforts and report 1 with probability  $\bar{\omega}$  and where the other agents exert efforts  
 210 and report truthfully.*

211 *Proof.* First, let us assume that all agents but  $i$  play the strategy described in the proposition.  
 212 With signal 1, agent  $i$  expects the asset value to be  $T\bar{\omega} + (1 - T)\omega_i^1$ , and with signal 0  
 213  $T\bar{\omega} + (1 - T)\omega_i^0$ . By Lemma 1,  $T\bar{\omega} + (1 - T)\omega_i^0 < \bar{\omega} < T\bar{\omega} + (1 - T)\omega_i^1$ , and with the same

214 argument as in the proof of Proposition 2, it is best to report truthfully  $R_i^0 = 0$  and  $R_i^1 = 1$ .

215 Ex ante, the expected benefit of exerting an effort is therefore

$$216 \quad [\bar{\omega} \times (T\bar{\omega} + (1 - T)\bar{\omega}_i^1 - \bar{\omega}) + (1 - \bar{\omega}) (\bar{\omega} - T\bar{\omega} - (1 - T)\bar{\omega}_i^0)]\pi - c_i.$$

217 If  $\frac{c_i}{\pi} \leq \bar{\omega} \times (T\bar{\omega} + (1 - T)\bar{\omega}_i^1 - \bar{\omega}) + (1 - \bar{\omega}) (\bar{\omega} - T\bar{\omega} - (1 - T)\bar{\omega}_i^0)$  then  $e_i = 1$  is optimal.

218 If  $\frac{c_i}{\pi} > \bar{\omega} \times (T\bar{\omega} + (1 - T)\bar{\omega}_i^1 - \bar{\omega}) + (1 - \bar{\omega}) (\bar{\omega} - T\bar{\omega} - (1 - T)\bar{\omega}_i^0)$ , an effort leads to

219 negative net earnings, whereas exerting no efforts gives

$$220 \quad [R_i \times (T\bar{\omega} + (1 - T)E_i(\omega) - \bar{\omega}) + (1 - R_i) (\bar{\omega} - T\bar{\omega} - (1 - T)E_i(\omega))]\pi = 0$$

221 because of the common prior expectations assumption. Hence,  $e_i = 0$  and  $R_i = \bar{\omega}$  is a best response in this

222 case. □

223 In the equilibrium of Proposition 3, the  $T\%$  of agents not providing an effort have negative

224 externalities on others by decreasing the extent to which the asset value can differ from the

225 prior expectations. This reduces the value of providing an effort for everyone.

## 226 2.4 Psychological costs

227 So far, we have only considered effort costs. In this subsection, two additional costs are

228 considered:

229 • *Asymmetric reporting cost:* The cost  $a_i \geq 0$  borne by agent  $i$  when reporting  $r_i =$

230 1 per se, no matter whether the agent receives a signal and what this signal may

231 be. We choose 1 arbitrarily, and without loss of generality. This cost can reflect a

232 stigma associated with answer 1. As we will see in the theoretical results and later

233 in the experimental applications,  $a_i$  should not be too high, thereby excluding major

234 incentives to lie.

235 • *Deception cost:* The cost  $d_i \geq 0$  of reporting  $r_i = 0$  after receiving signal  $\tau_i = 1$  or

236 reporting  $r_i = 1$  after receiving signal  $\tau_i = 0$ . This cost captures people's tendency

237 to tell the truth. We assume that such costs can only occur when a signal has been

238 received because cost for reporting an answer in spite of having no signal would be  
 239 equivalent to decreasing the effort costs.

240 **Assumption 5.** *Agents bear asymmetric reporting costs  $a_i \geq 0$  and deception costs  $d_i \geq 0$   
 241 and these costs are common knowledge.*

242 **Proposition 4.** *Under Assumptions 1 to 5 and with  $N$  infinite, if for all  $i \in \{1, \dots, N\}$   
 243  $\frac{c_i}{\pi} < \bar{\omega} \times (\bar{\omega}_i^1 - \bar{\omega} - \frac{a_i}{\pi}) + (1 - \bar{\omega})(\bar{\omega} - \bar{\omega}_i^0)$  and  $\frac{a_i}{\pi} < \frac{d_i}{\pi} + 2(\bar{\omega}_i^1 - \bar{\omega})$ , providing an effort  
 244 and reporting truthfully ( $e_i = 1$ ,  $R_i^0 = 0$ , and  $R_i^1 = 1$ ) is a Nash equilibrium, and it strictly  
 245 dominates the no-effort equilibrium.*

*Proof.* Let us consider agent  $i$ 's view point and assume  $e_j = 1$ ,  $R_j^0 = 0$ , and  $R_j^1 = 1$  for all  $j \neq i$ . Without any signal, agent  $i$ 's expected earnings are

$$\left[ R_i \left( E_i(\omega) - \bar{\omega} - \frac{a_i}{\pi} \right) + (1 - R_i) (\bar{\omega} - E_i(\omega)) \right] \times \pi \leq 0.$$

With signal 1, agent  $i$ 's expected earnings are

$$\left[ R_i^1 \left( \bar{\omega}_i^1 - \bar{\omega} - \frac{a_i}{\pi} \right) + (1 - R_i^1) \left( \bar{\omega} - \bar{\omega}_i^1 - \frac{d_i}{\pi} \right) \right] \times \pi - c_i.$$

This is maximum for  $R_i^1 = 1$ , because  $\frac{a_i}{\pi} < \frac{d_i}{\pi} + 2(\bar{\omega}_i^1 - \bar{\omega})$ . With signal 0, agent  $i$ 's expected earnings are

$$\left[ R_i^0 \left( \bar{\omega}_i^0 - \bar{\omega} - \frac{a_i}{\pi} - \frac{d_i}{\pi} \right) + (1 - R_i^0) (\bar{\omega} - \bar{\omega}_i^0) \right] \times \pi - c_i.$$

246 This is maximum for  $R_i^0 = 0$ . Before getting a signal, the expected payoff is therefore,  
 247  $\left[ \bar{\omega} \times (\bar{\omega}_i^1 - \bar{\omega} - \frac{a_i}{\pi}) + (1 - \bar{\omega})(\bar{\omega} - \bar{\omega}_i^0) \right] \times \pi - c_i$ . This is strictly positive by assumption.  
 248 Hence, providing an effort is worth it. As a consequence,  $e_i = 1$ ,  $R_i^0 = 0$ , and  $R_i^1 = 1$  is a  
 249 Nash equilibrium.

250 Finally, let us consider the case in which all agents but  $i$  provide no efforts and report 0  
 251 (as in Proposition 1). The best agent  $i$  can do is to provide no effort and report 0 as well,  
 252 yielding expected earnings 0, which is dominated by truth-telling.  $\square$

253 Proposition 4 establishes two sufficient conditions for the existence of a truth-telling equi-  
254 librium. The first one, as in Proposition 2, ensures that the expected payoffs with effort is  
255 higher than with no effort. The second one ensures that the cost of reporting the stigma-  
256 tizing answer does not exceed the benefit of truth-telling. This benefit is twofold: the agent  
257 does not lie (so no deception costs  $d_i$ ) and buys the asset instead of having to sell it. This  
258 leads to three remarks. First, costs of reporting a stigmatizing answers are moderated by  
259 the cost of lying. Second, if  $\frac{a_i}{\pi} > \frac{d_i}{\pi} + 2(\bar{\omega}_i^1 - \bar{\omega})$ , the corresponding agent will anticipate to  
260 never report 1 anyhow and therefore, has no incentives to provide an effort. In other words,  
261 in our model, conscious lying has no reason to occur because agent will simply prefer not  
262 to get a signal and report the more acceptable answer. Third, a higher  $\pi$  is useful to both  
263 stimulate effort and reduce incentives to lie.

## 264 **3 Experimental Evidence**

265 Section 2 established the existence of an equilibrium agents in a PPM seek costly infor-  
266 mation and make informed trades. An agent’s incentives in trading are based on her peers’  
267 behavior, as value of the asset is determined by other agents’ trades. Are such peer-based  
268 incentives effective in eliciting effort in practice? This section presents evidence from two  
269 experimental studies. Section 3.1 provides a brief overview of the two studies and the find-  
270 ings. Sections 3.2 and 3.3 provide detailed information on the two studies and present the  
271 results.

### 272 **3.1 Overview**

273 We run two experimental studies to test if PPM elicit effort in judgment formation.  
274 Study 1 aims to test PPM in a controlled setting. We recruit participants for an online  
275 experiment where they are presented with pairs of virtual boxes, containing yellow and blue  
276 balls of unknown proportions. In each pair, one of the boxes is the ‘actual box’ with equal

277 probability. Participants are asked to pick a box within each pair. Before making a pick, each  
278 participant could independently draw a single ball from the actual box if she completes a real  
279 effort task, which involves counting the number of zeroes in a binary matrix. In this design  
280 the actual box is known to the experimenter, implying that the information is verifiable.  
281 Testing the PPM in a verifiable task allows us to implement incentives for ex-post accuracy  
282 as a benchmark. Study 1 consists of three experimental conditions in which participants  
283 complete the same task. The control condition offers fixed rewards (a flat participation fee)  
284 while the two treatments implement PPM incentives and incentives for ex-post accuracy.  
285 Results suggest that the PPM elicit significantly more effort than fixed rewards while the  
286 effort is highest under incentives for ex-post accuracy. As discussed before, ex-post accuracy  
287 is not observable in practical elicitation problems of unverifiable information. The results of  
288 Study 1 suggest that the PPM are effective when ex-post rewards are not feasible.

289 Study 2 explores the feasibility of PPM in a practical problem of elicitation of unverifi-  
290 able information. In response to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, governments around the  
291 world issued guidelines for social distancing and other safe practices. Policy makers would  
292 like to know if such guidance is followed by the public. When asked to self-report if they  
293 were following a safe practice, people may not recall instances where they failed to do so. In  
294 addition, people may be reluctant to admit unsafe practices due to the social stigma associ-  
295 ated with such anti-social behavior. We implement the PPM in an online survey aimed at  
296 the residents of the UK. Participants are asked 8 questions, each involving an unsafe practice  
297 according to the Covid-19 guidance issued by the UK government. We find that under the  
298 PPM incentives, participants are more likely to admit not following the guidance and they  
299 took longer to respond on average. Study 2 allows us to test the PPM in a setup where  
300 psychological costs as well as effort costs are relevant.

301 **3.2 Study 1 - PPM in a simple prediction task**

302 **3.2.1 Design and procedures**

303 **Tasks.** Participants complete 10 *prediction tasks*. Each prediction task displays a pair of  
304 boxes as shown in Figure 1 below. There are 10 such pairs and each pair appears in a single  
305 prediction task only. One of the boxes in each pair is set as the ‘actual box’ via a coin flip  
306 prior to the experiment. Participants are informed that one of the boxes is the actual box,  
307 but they do not know which. In each task, participants are asked to pick one of the boxes,  
308 which may affect their rewards depending on the experimental condition.

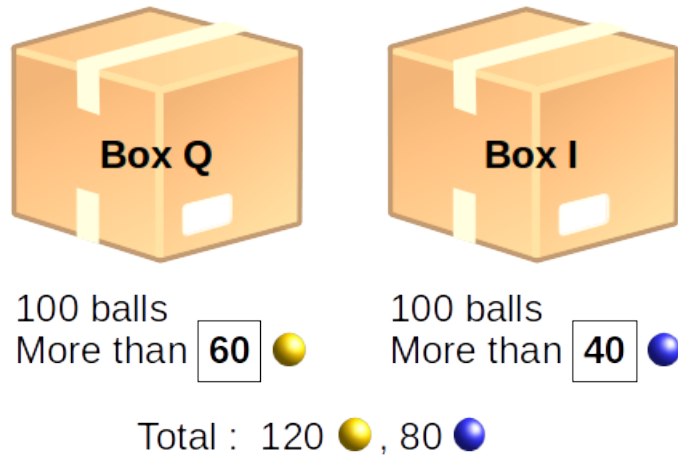


Figure 1: An example pair of boxes

309 In Figure 1, there are 120 yellow and 80 blue balls in total. Box Q contains more than  
310 60 yellow balls while Box I contains more than 40 blue balls. The exact number of balls  
311 of each color are determined randomly according to the specifications. So, the number of  
312 yellow balls in Box Q is within (60, 100]. For example, if Box Q contains 80 yellow and 20  
313 blue balls, Box Z contains 40 yellow and 60 blue balls. In the experiment, pairs of boxes  
314 are presented as shown in Figure 1. Thus, participants do not know the exact number of  
315 yellow and blue balls in a box. The boxes are constructed such that the left box (Box Q in  
316 Figure 1) always contains more than half of the total number of yellow balls. All 10 pairs

317 are included in the supplemental material.

318 Before picking a box, each participant is offered a choice to observe a single draw from  
319 the actual box with replacement. Participants have to complete a *real effort task* to observe  
320 their draw. The effort task is counting the number of 0s in a matrix. Figure 2 shows one  
321 such matrix. There is a unique matrix for each effort task and there is a single effort task  
322 associated with each prediction task. The number of 0s in each matrix varies between 8 and  
323 16.

0	0	1	1	0	1
1	0	0	1	0	0
0	0	1	1	1	1
0	0	1	1	0	1

Figure 2: An example binary matrix

324 The sequence of events in each prediction task is as follows: First, participants are shown  
325 a pair of boxes and asked if they want to complete the effort task. If a participant skips  
326 the effort task, she is immediately asked to pick a box. Otherwise, she is presented the  
327 associated binary matrix and asked to report the number of 0s. The participant is required  
328 to report an accurate count to proceed. If the participant reports an inaccurate count, she is  
329 allowed unlimited number of retries until she reports an accurate count. Upon reporting the  
330 accurate count, the participant observes a random draw, which is either a blue or a yellow  
331 ball. Then, she proceeds to picking a box.

332 The prediction task is a representation of the binary question  $Q$ , where the two boxes in  
333 any pair correspond to the possible answers. The effort task corresponds to the costly signal  
334 in our framework. Participants are allowed to skip the effort task, in which case they make  
335 a pick without observing a draw. In any given pair, the total number of yellow (and blue)  
336 balls are known and boxes are a priori equally likely to be the actual box, which induces a  
337 common prior expectation on the number of yellow balls in the actual box. For example,



338 the common prior expectation on yellow in Figure 1 is 60. If a participant draws a yellow  
339 (blue) ball, her posterior probability on left (right) box being the actual box is higher. An  
340 agent’s best guess on the actual box matches with her draw and hence, corresponds to her  
341 type. Thus, a participant’s draw is effectively the signal that fully determines her type.

342 **Design.** We set up three experimental conditions which differ only in reward struc-  
343 ture. In the *flat* condition, participants receive a fixed reward of £3.25 for completing the  
344 experiment. In the *accuracy* treatment, participants receive a basis reward of £3.25. In  
345 addition, they earn £0.20 per accurate pick and lose £0.20 per inaccurate pick, where the  
346 accurate pick in a pair is picking the actual box. Thus, a participant’s total reward is within  
347 [£1.25, £5.25]. The *PPM* treatment implements the PPM. Similar to the accuracy treat-  
348 ment the basis reward is £3.25. In addition, participants may earn a bonus from each pick  
349 which is determined by her peers’ picks in the same pair and composition of the boxes. To  
350 illustrate, consider a participant who is asked to pick a box in the pair shown in Figure 1.  
351 Suppose, among all other participants, 82% picked Box Q and 18% picked Box I. Then, the  
352 participant earns  $82 - 60 = 22p$  if she picked Box Q, loses  $40 - 18 = 22p$  if she picked Box  
353 I. The number within the square below each box is serves as a threshold. The participant  
354 earns a positive bonus from her pick if the percentage of others who pick the same box in  
355 that pair exceeds the threshold of that box.

356 Rewards in the PPM treatment represent the incentives in a PPM. Consider the pair of  
357 boxes given in Figure 1. The actual box is either Box Q or Box I with equal probability. Prior  
358 expectation of a participant on the number of yellow balls is 60. Suppose the participant  
359 chooses to complete the effort task and draws a yellow ball. Her posterior probability on  
360 Box Q being the actual box is higher, which has two implications: i) her best guess on the  
361 actual box is Box Q, and ii) her posterior expectation on the number of yellow balls in the  
362 actual box is greater than 60. Then, the participant expects more than 60% of her peers to  
363 draw yellow and consider Box Q more likely as well. In a situation where all others pick the  
364 box they consider more likely, the participant expects more than 60% of her peers to pick

365 Box Q, resulting a positive expected bonus from picking Box Q herself. Vice versa holds for  
366 a participant who draws a blue ball. This setup is analogous to a PPM with  $p = \omega_0 = 0.6$ ,  
367 where the differing best guesses of participants who draw different colors correspond to the  
368 types. Trades are represented by picks in the prediction task. Recall that the left (right)  
369 box in each pair contains more than the prior expectation on the number of yellow (blue)  
370 balls. The truthful strategy corresponds to a subject completing the effort task followed by  
371 picking the left (right) box if her draw is a yellow (blue) ball.

372 Participants in the flat condition have no direct financial incentives to complete the  
373 effort tasks as their reward does not depend on prediction accuracy. In contrast, rewards  
374 in the accuracy condition are determined by prediction accuracy. Thus, participants in the  
375 accuracy condition could be expected to complete effort tasks more frequently to maximize  
376 their accuracy. The PPM condition also provides incentives to complete effort tasks if, as  
377 predicted by the theory, participants consider their signal informative on others' picks. We  
378 could observe more effort task completion relative to the flat condition if the PPM incentives  
379 work in practice.

380 **Participants.** We recruit 210 subjects for an online experiment, implemented via  
381 Qualtrics. The subjects are recruited from Prolific, an online platform for conducting sur-  
382 veys. We restrict our subject pool to U.S. citizens who are students at the time of the  
383 experiment. Table B1 in Appendix B provides further information on the participants.

384 **Procedure.** The experiment was published on Prolific in May 2020. Subjects are ran-  
385 domly selected into one of the experimental conditions. They are first presented with in-  
386 structions, which differ across the experimental conditions in rewards only. Then, subjects  
387 complete the prediction tasks. The order of the prediction tasks is randomized. Finally,  
388 subjects complete a short survey on demographics and their experience in the experiment.

389 **3.2.2 Results**

390 The primary question of interest is whether participants are more likely to seek costly  
 391 information under the incentives provided by a PPM compared to fixed rewards. The effort  
 392 task completion in control and PPM treatments allows us to test the effect of PPM incentives  
 393 in eliciting effort. Furthermore in our prediction task, the ground truth (the actual box in  
 394 any pair) is known to the experimenter. The accuracy treatment implements rewards for  
 395 ex-post accuracy, which are not feasible in practice for elicitation without verification. We  
 396 compare accuracy and PPM treatments to assess the effectiveness of PPM incentives relative  
 397 to ex-post rewards.

398 We measure the frequency with which subjects completed the effort tasks across the  
 399 experimental conditions. Figure 3 depicts the percentage of participants in each experimental  
 400 condition who complete the associated effort task in each prediction task.

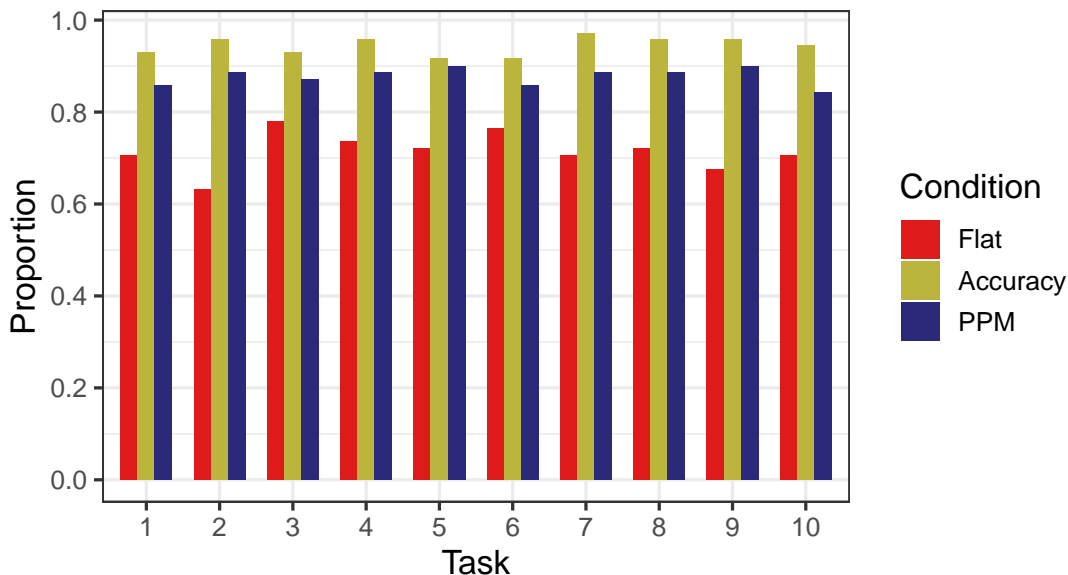


Figure 3: Proportion of participants who complete effort tasks in each prediction task.

401 The effort level is higher than zero, even in the control condition. Effort task completion  
 402 is strictly higher in the PPM and accuracy treatments while the latter achieves the highest  
 403 proportions. Figure 3 suggests that incentives provided by a PPM is effective in eliciting

404 a higher proportion of informed judgments compared to a fixed reward. Incentives in the  
 405 accuracy treatment are the most effective in eliciting effort.

406 We now investigate if subjects followed the truthful strategy, which also entails picking the  
 407 left (right) box when a yellow (blue) ball is drawn. Given the simplicity of the predictions  
 408 task, subjects do not have any external motives to make a non-truthful pick. However,  
 409 deviations from the truthful strategy may occur due to confusion or errors. Figure 4 shows  
 410 subjects' picks given their draw. The 3x3 grid depicts the three experimental conditions as  
 411 well as the three possible situation after the effort task. A subject will receive a yellow or  
 412 blue draw if she completes the effort task. Alternatively, the subject does not receive a draw  
 413 if she skips the effort task. The bars show the number of picks in each task. Since picking  
 414 the left (right) box when the draw is yellow (blue) is the truthful strategy, the number of left  
 415 (right) picks are represented by yellow (blue) colored bars. The black dots show subjects'  
 416 prior expectation on the number of yellow balls in the actual box, given that left and right  
 417 boxes are equally likely to be the actual box. Table A1 in Appendix A provides the prior  
 418 expectations on the number of yellow balls in each task.

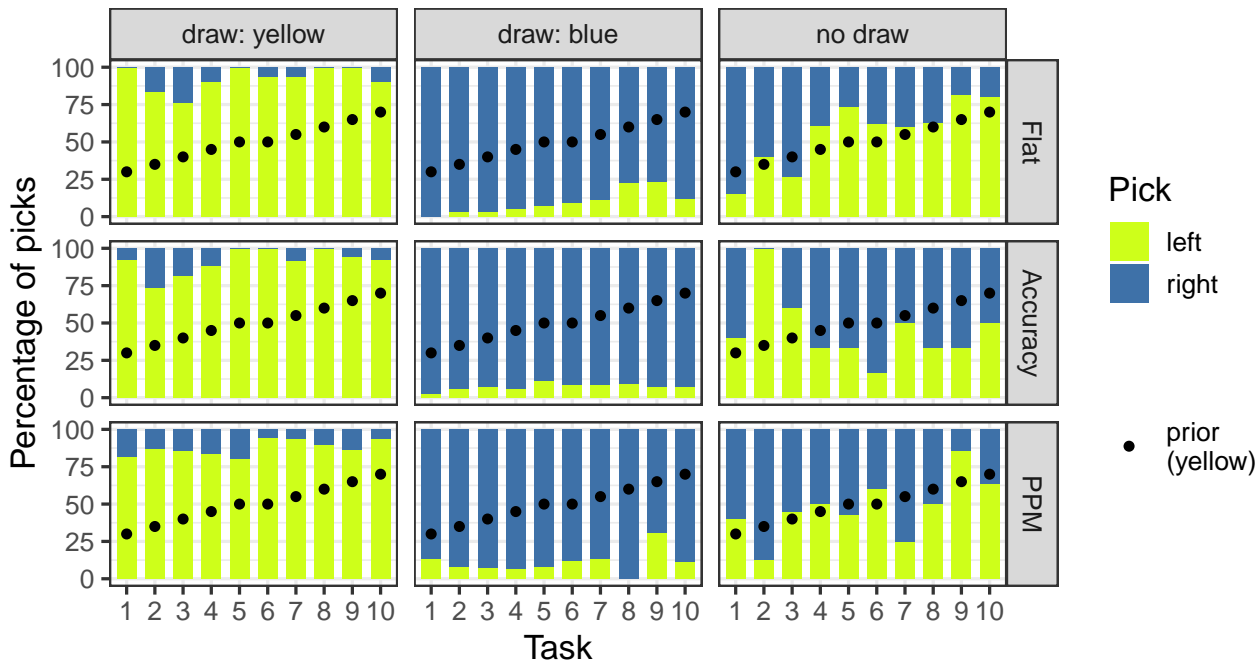


Figure 4: Subjects' picks

419 Figure 4 strongly suggests that the subjects pick according to the truthful strategy.  
420 Subjects who observe a yellow (blue) draw typically pick the left (right) box. The distribution  
421 of picks in PPM and Accuracy are very similar, so we can argue that the PPM incentives  
422 elicit subjects' true prediction. The same is true for the Flat condition as well. However, as  
423 shown in Figure 3, subjects in Flat are more likely to pick without completing the effort task.  
424 Thus, PPM is more effective in eliciting a complete truthful strategy. Also note that we do  
425 not observe the degenerate outcomes where all subjects coordinate on picking the same box.  
426 In contrast, subjects picks match with their signal as predicted by the truthful equilibrium.

427 The right-hand panel of Figure 4 illustrates the strategy subjects used if they did not  
428 draw. Interestingly, subjects in the PPM treatment (and in the Flat treatment) appeared to  
429 follow a mixed strategy, reporting left with a probability equal to the prior, as described in  
430 the equilibrium of Proposition 3. The probability to report left and the prior were correlated  
431 (Pearson:  $\rho = 0,64$ ,  $p = 0.048$ ) and not significantly different (t-test  $t = -0.34$   $p = 0.739$ )  
432 for PPM subjects who did not draw a ball, whereas they were uncorrelated and significantly  
433 different for those who drew a yellow ball or a blue ball (see Table C1 in the appendix).

434 For a statistical analysis on effort task completion, we estimate logistic regressions where  
435 probability of effort task completion is the dependent variable. Table 1 below shows the av-  
436 erage marginal effects. The pooled data includes 2100 decisions to complete the effort task  
437 or not. We include binary indicators for the experimental conditions as dependent variables.  
438 The coefficient of 'PPM' in Table 1 measures the estimated difference from implementing  
439 PPM incentives instead of a flat fee on the likelihood of effort task completion in any task.  
440 The coefficient of 'Accuracy' measures the same for rewarding participants for ex-post accu-  
441 racy. Models (1) and (2) use the whole sample of subjects. In (3) and (4), participants who  
442 gave an incorrect answer in the post-experimental quiz are excluded to construct a filtered  
443 sample. Specifications (2) and (4) also include various controls. The variables 'US citizen?'  
444 and 'Female?' are binary indicators for US residents and gender respectively while 'Age' is a  
445 numeric variable. In all models, standard errors are clustered at participant level. Tables C3

<i>Dep. var.: P(effort task completed)</i>				
	<i>(whole sample)</i>		<i>(filtered sample)</i>	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
PPM	0.10** (0.03)	0.09** (0.03)	0.10** (0.03)	0.08** (0.03)
Accuracy	0.18*** (0.03)	0.18*** (0.03)	0.18*** (0.03)	0.18*** (0.03)
Age		-0.00 (0.00)		-0.00 (0.00)
Female?		0.04 (0.03)		0.04 (0.03)
US resident?		-0.02 (0.06)		-0.02 (0.06)
Num. obs.	2100	2070	2060	2030
Log Likelihood	-821.85	-768.69	-816.44	-763.58
Deviance	1643.70	1537.38	1632.88	1527.16
AIC	1649.70	1549.38	1638.88	1539.16
BIC	1666.65	1583.19	1655.77	1572.86

\*\*\* $p < 0.001$ ; \*\* $p < 0.01$ ; \* $p < 0.05$ ; + $p < 0.1$

Table 1: Marginal effects, logistic regression (baseline category: flat)

446 and C4 in Appendix C present probit marginal effects and regression estimates from both  
447 logistic and probit models.

448 In all specifications, the marginal effects for PPM and accuracy treatments are positively  
449 significant. Based on model (1), we see that a participant in the PPM treatment is 10%  
450 more likely to complete the associated effort task in a given prediction task. Incentives  
451 provided by a PPM motivates agents to exert more effort compared to a fixed payment. For  
452 a comparison between Accuracy and PPM, Table C2 estimates the same logistic regression  
453 except that PPM is the baseline category. Incentives for ex-post accuracy is 9-11% more  
454 likely to elicit effort compared to a PPM. We can infer that incentives for ex-post accuracy  
455 is the most effective in effort elicitation, followed by PPM and flat payments. In the absence  
456 of verifiability, PPM provides an alternative for incentivizing effort and eliciting truthful  
457 judgments.

### 458 **3.3 Study 2 - Eliciting Covid-19 experiences truthfully using PPM**

459 Study 2 implements PPM incentives in measuring if the residents of the UK followed  
460 safety guidance during the Covid-19 pandemic. For most of the safe practices in the guidance,  
461 it is not feasible to monitor all individual behavior. Self-reported behavior is practically  
462 unverifiable. In an unincentivized or a flat-fee survey, participants may not exert the mental  
463 effort to recall and report their behavior truthfully. Furthermore, reporting costs can be  
464 asymmetric. Unsafe behavior is typically stigmatized and likely to be under-reported. We  
465 investigate if the PPM motivate participants to spend more time in answering questions and  
466 report their unsafe practices at a higher rate.

#### 467 **3.3.1 Design and procedures**

468 **Tasks.** Participants are presented a survey consisting of 8 statements. Each statement  
469 describes a situation that was considered unsafe and inadvisable (if not prohibited) by the  
470 UK Covid-19 guidance at the time of this survey. For each statement, participants pick ‘true’  
471 or ‘false’ to self-report if they have been in the described situation. Table 2 provides the list  
472 of questions:

	Statement
1.	I have been in an elevator with another person in it at least once in the last 7 days
2.	I may have stood less than 2 metres away from the person in front in a queue at least once in the last 7 days
3.	I was seated less than 2 metres away from someone who is not part of my household in a restaurant/cafe/bar at least once in the last 7 days
4.	I have been in a social gathering with more than 6 people who are not part of my household at least once in the last 7 days
5.	I have been in a busy shop/market with no restrictions on number of customers at least once in the last 7 days
6.	I participated in an indoor activity with more than 6 people who are not part of my household at least once in the last 7 days
7.	I have been in a shop/market where one or more of the staff did not wear a mask at least once in the last 7 days
8.	I had an interaction with someone experiencing high body temperature, persistent cough or loss of taste/smell at least once in the last 7 days

Table 2: Covid-19 survey questions

473 We ran this survey for two weeks with a new sample of participants every week. The two  
474 iterations of the survey are referred to as week 1 and week 2 surveys respectively. As we will  
475 introduce below, week 1 and week 2 surveys include experimental conditions that implement  
476 the PPM. We also run a week 0 survey to elicit information necessary to initialize the PPM.  
477 The week 0 survey uses the same questions, but they are presented in a slightly different way  
478 to elicit more information on the number of instances participants engaged in the described  
479 behavior. For example, question 1 in Table 2 is presented as ‘In the last 7 days, I have been  
480 in an elevator with another person in it ...’ and the participant picks one of the following  
481 answers: ‘once or more’, ‘twice or more’, ‘3 times or more’, ‘4 times or more’, ‘5 times or  
482 more’. Based on the results of the week 0 survey, we decided to implement two versions of  
483 each survey in weeks 1 and 2. Both versions ask the questions in Table 2, but in the second



484 version ‘at least once’ is replaced with ‘at least twice’ in each question. We will provide more  
485 information on how week 0 survey is used in the design below.

486 **Design.** In week 0 survey, all participants receive a flat fee. In week 1 and 2 surveys, we  
487 manipulate incentives to create the control and treatment conditions. In the control, partici-  
488 pants are rewarded with a flat fee for completing the survey while the treatment implements  
489 the PPM incentives. Figure 5 shows the experiment interface in the *PPM* condition.

**Question 2 of 8** ([show instructions](#))

Please try to remember how many times you were in the following situation:

**I was seated less than 2 metres away from someone who is not part of my household  
in a restaurant/cafe/bar at least once in the last 7 days.**

<b>True</b> (picked by 44% last week)	<b>False</b> (picked by 56% last week)
<input type="button" value="Submit"/>	

Figure 5: A screenshot from the treatment condition

490 The interface displays the statement and requires subjects to pick ‘true’ or ‘false’. The  
491 text below each alternative shows the percentage of participants who endorsed that alterna-  
492 tive in the previous week’s survey. Recall that in our Bayesian setup, agents have a common  
493 prior expectation  $\omega^0$ , which can be considered as the last realization of  $\omega$ . The market maker  
494 sets  $p = \omega^0$ , which leads to the separating equilibrium. The endorsement rates of the previ-  
495 ous iteration represents  $\omega^0$ . Furthermore, participants’ bonus depends on the endorsement  
496 rates. In Figure 5, the endorsement rate of ‘true’ in the last iteration is 44%. A participant  
497 who picks ‘true’ in this iteration wins a positive (negative) bonus from this question if the  
498 realized endorsement rate in this iteration exceeds (falls below) 44%. The same holds for

499 ‘false’, except that the threshold is 56%. Thus, the PPM condition essentially implements  
500 a repeated PPM where last iteration’s realization determines the price for the current iter-  
501 ation. We will provide more information on the rewards below. The PPM incentives are  
502 expected to incentivize mental effort and/or overcome the psychological costs of reporting  
503 one’s actual behavior. If PPM works as intended, we may expect decision times to be longer  
504 and endorsement rates for ‘true’ to be higher.

505 The control surveys are similar to the treatment surveys except that participants are  
506 rewarded with a flat fee. We implement two different types of control surveys. In the  
507 *control-1* condition, the survey interface does not present any information on previous iter-  
508 ations’ endorsement rates. In contrast, the *control-2* survey shows the same screen as the  
509 PPM condition, as shown in Figure 5. So, the control-2 survey displays last week’s endorse-  
510 ment rates. The rewards are fixed in both control-1 and control-2 surveys, thus the previous  
511 endorsement rates are irrelevant. Nevertheless, we included control-2 condition to check if  
512 merely presenting that information affects participants reports. If a PPM is effective, we  
513 could expect to see higher endorsement for ‘true’ and longer response times in the PPM  
514 condition compared to control-1. However, participants process additional information (pre-  
515 vious endorsement rates) in the treatment condition, which might affect decision times. A  
516 significant difference between the PPM and the control-2 conditions would further suggest  
517 that the effect on reports and decision times is not simply due to the availability of previous  
518 endorsement rates.

519 Control-2 and PPM surveys present information on endorsement rates in the previous  
520 iteration. Week 0 survey is used to determine the previous endorsement rates presented in  
521 the control-2 and PPM surveys of week 1. Thus, week 0 data is used to initialize control-2  
522 and PPM. Furthermore, the week 0 survey motivates our choice to run two versions where  
523 the statements include ‘at least once’ and ‘at least twice’ respectively. Table B2 in Appendix  
524 C provides the percentage of participants who pick ‘true’ in each question in the week 0  
525 survey. For ‘3 times or more’ and higher thresholds, the percentage of ‘true’ picks are close

526 to 0. Then, participants in week 1 iteration of an ‘at least 3 times’ version may report ‘true’  
527 simply because the threshold is very low and a few ‘true’ picks could easily bring the week 1  
528 endorsement rates above the threshold. To avoid such cases, we only run two versions with  
529 ‘at least once’ and ‘at least twice’ respectively.

530 To summarize, we implement 6 surveys in a  $3$  (control-1, control-2, PPM)  $\times$   $2$  (‘at least  
531 once’, ‘at least twice’) design in each iteration. The week 0 survey is used to initialize the  
532 control-2 and PPM surveys in week 1 while week 2 surveys are initialized using week 1 results  
533 endorsement rates from the same survey.

534 **Participants.** Participants are recruited from Prolific, an online platform that provides  
535 subject pools for online experiments. We restrict our subject pool to students who currently  
536 reside in the UK. In total 692 participants completed our survey, 50 of which participate in  
537 week 0 survey while the remaining 642 participated in a week 1 or week 2 survey, assigned  
538 randomly in one of the 6 conditions explained above. One participant is excluded for being  
539 in a non-student status at the time of data collection. All surveys are implemented via  
540 Qualtrics. Table B3 in Appendix C provides further information on the participants.

541 **Rewards.** Control-1 and control-2 surveys pay a fixed reward of £1.75. In the PPM  
542 surveys, participants earn £0.75 for participation. In addition, they start with a bonus of  
543 £1. In each question, a participant’s bonus changes according to the difference between  
544 the endorsement rate in the current survey versus the endorsement rate in the previous  
545 iteration. To illustrate, suppose a participant picked ‘true’ in a question in week 2 survey  
546 and endorsement rate of ‘true’ was 50% in week 1. If the realized endorsement rate of ‘true’  
547 in week 2 at the same question is 70%, the subject wins  $70 - 50 = 20$  pence. In contrast, if  
548 the endorsement rate in week is 30%, the subject loses  $50 - 30 = 20$  pence. The previous  
549 week’s endorsement rate serves as the price in a PPM while the current week’s endorsement  
550 rate, unknown to the participant at the time of her decision, is analogous to realized value  
551 of the asset. For each participant in the PPM condition, we sum the gains and losses over  
552 all question to determine the net bonus.

553 **Procedure.** The experiment is conducted over three weeks and consists of week 0, 1  
554 and 2 surveys that take place 7 days apart. The week 0 iteration is a single survey while in  
555 weeks 1 and 2, participants are randomly assigned to the different conditions. In each survey  
556 of each iteration, participants are first presented with instructions. Then they are asked to  
557 respond to the questions, which are presented in randomized order. Finally, participants  
558 complete a short survey on demographics and their experience in the experiment.

### 559 3.3.2 Results

560 Figure 6 shows the percentage of ‘true’ picks for each condition and version in the week 1  
561 and week 2 surveys. Responses are pooled across questions and participants. Furthermore,  
562 we exclude 12 observations where the response time is longer than 60 seconds. Figure C1  
563 in Appendix C suggest that these observations can be treated as outliers. Thus, they are  
564 excluded in all analyses below.

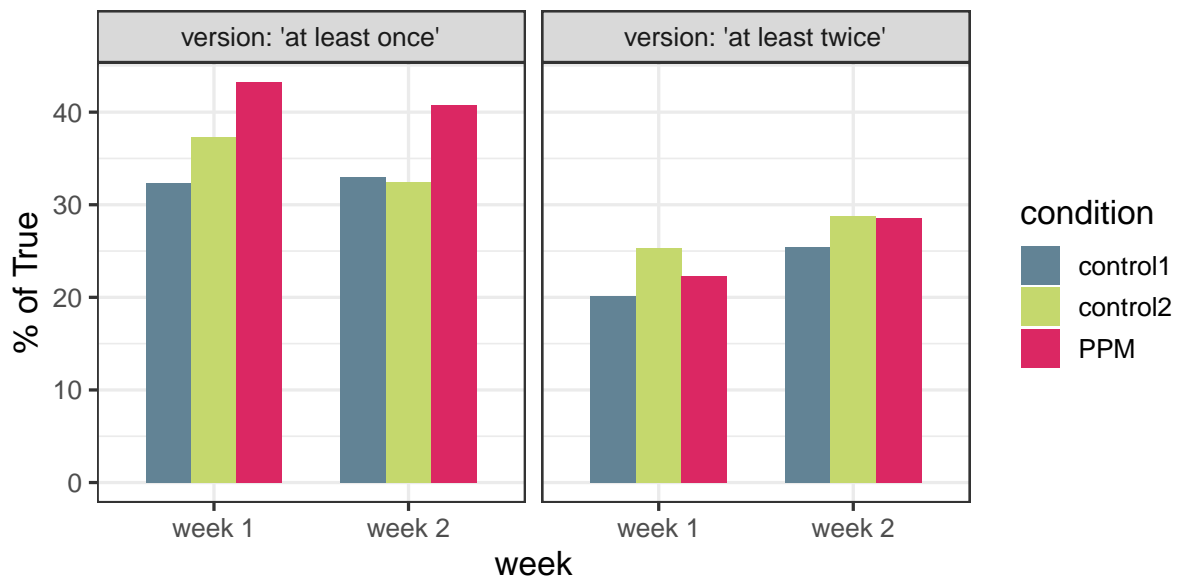


Figure 6: Percentage of ‘true’ picks in week 1 and 2 surveys.

565 In the ‘at least once’ surveys, the treatment elicits a higher percentage of ‘true’ responses  
566 compared to both controls. No such difference is observed in any iteration in the ‘at least  
567 twice’ version. Figure C2 in Appendix C shows a breakdown of percentage of ‘true’ across

568 different questions. PPM elicits more ‘true’ in most questions in the ‘at least once’ version.  
 569 Recall that week 1 surveys are initialized with the unincentivized week 0 survey (of a slightly  
 570 different format) while week 2 surveys use data from week 1 survey of the corresponding  
 571 condition. Since the prior has an effect on PPM, we will analyze the response data from  
 572 weeks 1 and 2 separately.

573 Figure 7 depicts the response times for each version and week. We also categorize data  
 574 according to the response type to see if response times differ.

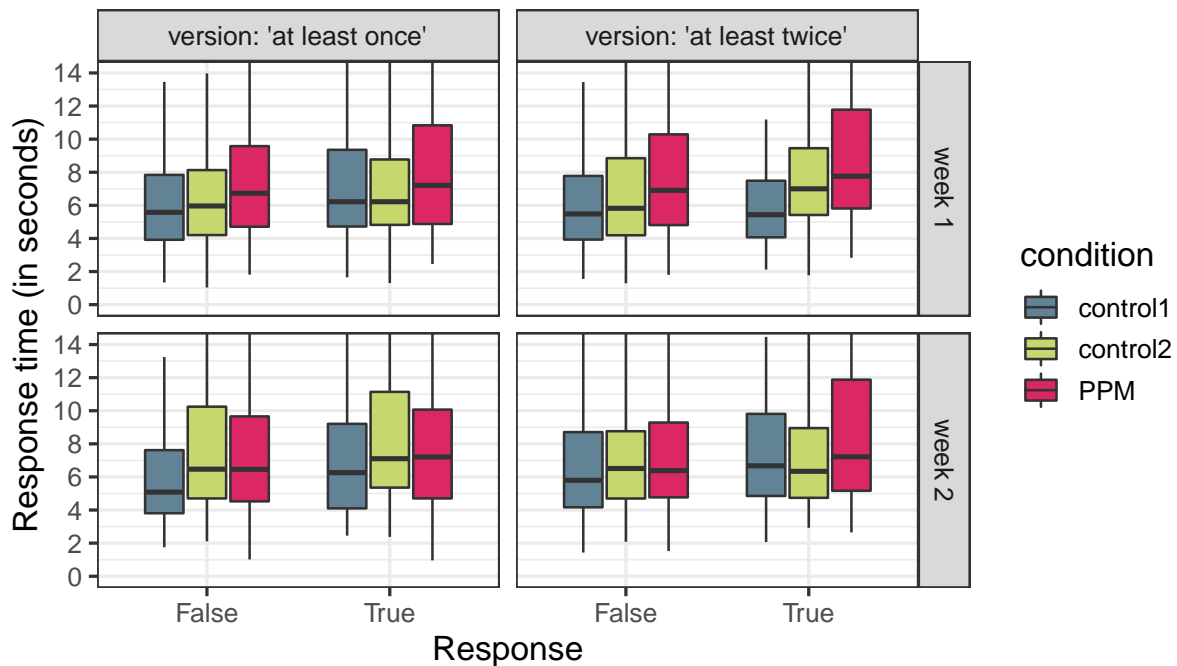


Figure 7: Response time of participants. The data points above 14 are included in calculations but not shown on the figure.

575 The median response time in the PPM condition is higher than the control-1 surveys in  
 576 all iterations. The same is true for control-2 surveys in week 1. However, response times in  
 577 control-2 and PPM are comparable in week 2 surveys. Interestingly, Figure 7 suggests that  
 578 the response times are higher in the week 2 iteration of the ‘at least once’ control-2 survey  
 579 than the week 1 iteration, which partially explains why response times are comparable to  
 580 PPM. Figure C3 supports this observation. Since week 1 and 2 surveys are identical other  
 581 than the percentage of ‘true’ in previous week’s iteration, we pool response time data in the

582 analysis below.

583 For a statistical analysis, we estimate two classes of regression models. Firstly, we es-  
584 timate a logistic regression for participants' likelihood picking 'true' in any given question.  
585 Secondly, we estimate a linear regression model where response time is the dependent vari-  
586 able. In both models, control-1 is the baseline category and binary indicators for control-2  
587 and PPM are variables of interest. We also include various demographic controls represent-  
588 ing the age, gender and citizenship of participants. We focus on the 'at least once' versions  
589 of all iterations as Figure 6 suggested a possible difference for these versions only. Section  
590 C.2.3 in Appendix C performs the same analysis for 'at least twice' survey. As mentioned  
591 above, we pool response time data from weeks 1 and 2, but we estimate separate models  
592 week 1 and week 2 response data.

593 Table 3 presents the average marginal effects from the logistic regressions and the es-  
594 timates from the response time regressions. Models (1) to (4) includes average marginal  
595 effects while (5) and (6) show the response time regressions with week 1 and 2 data pooled.  
596 Table C5 in Appendix C estimates models (5) and (6) separately for week 1 and 2 data.  
597 The intercept term in (5) and (6) represents the estimated response time in the control-1  
598 condition. In all models, standard errors are clustered at the participant level.

	<i>P(response = 'true'), marginal effects</i>				<i>Response time</i>	
	<i>(week 1)</i>		<i>(week 2)</i>		<i>(pooled)</i>	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
(Intercept)					6.85***	7.52***
					(0.25)	(0.69)
Control-2	0.05	0.04	-0.01	-0.00	1.13**	1.06**
	(0.04)	(0.04)	(0.04)	(0.04)	(0.39)	(0.39)
PPM	0.11***	0.10**	0.08*	0.08*	1.74***	1.69***
	(0.03)	(0.03)	(0.04)	(0.04)	(0.44)	(0.44)
Age		-0.00		-0.00		0.00
		(0.00)		(0.00)		(0.02)
Female?		0.02		-0.02		0.28
		(0.03)		(0.03)		(0.36)
UK citizen?		-0.00		0.03		-1.05*
		(0.03)		(0.04)		(0.41)
Num. obs.	1259	1259	1279	1279	2538	2538
Log Likelihood	-828.13	-826.36	-827.33	-825.89		
Deviance	1656.27	1652.72	1654.66	1651.78		
AIC	1662.27	1664.72	1660.66	1663.78		
BIC	1677.68	1695.55	1676.13	1694.70		
R <sup>2</sup>					0.01	0.02
Adj. R <sup>2</sup>					0.01	0.02
RMSE					5.87	5.85
N Clusters					318	318

\*\*\* $p < 0.001$ ; \*\* $p < 0.01$ ; \* $p < 0.05$ ; + $p < 0.1$

Table 3: Logistic regression and linear regression on response times

599 The average marginal effects in Table 3 show that the PPM survey elicits a higher fre-  
600 quency of ‘true’ picks. According to model (1), a participant in the PPM condition of week  
601 1 survey is 11 percentage points more likely to report ‘true’ for a given statement compared  
602 to a participant in the control-1 condition. In contrast, control-2 condition has no effect. A  
603 similar result holds for the week 2 survey where the marginal effect of the PPM condition is  
604 estimated to be 8%. Tables C6 and C7 in Appendix C show similar results in probit marginal  
605 effects and the logistic and probit regression estimates. Results support the equilibrium

606 characterized in Proposition 4. PPMs motivate participants to declare unsafe practices at a  
607 higher rate, which suggest that such practices are under-reported in basic surveys. Higher  
608 rates of admitting an unsafe practice indicate that the PPM incentives dominate potential  
609 reporting costs associated with the stigmatized response. PPMs also encourage participants  
610 to exert more mental effort. The results of the response time regressions partially support  
611 this interpretation. In models (5) and (6), participants in the PPM survey spend signifi-  
612 cantly more time in their responses than the control-1 survey. However, the same effect is  
613 observed for the control-2 survey. The test two parameters (PPM vs control-2) in (6) results  
614 in an insignificant difference (mean difference = 0.62,  $t = 1.359$ ,  $p = 0.17$ ). Thus, higher  
615 decision times can also be the result of subjects processing more information in the form of  
616 last week’s percentages.

## 617 4 Discussion

### 618 4.1 Related Literature

619 The original peer prediction method of Miller et al. (2005) asks agents to report an answer  
620 to a multiple choice question. It is assumed that the center knows the common prior (possibly  
621 from previous data). An agent’s report is used to update the prior. The resulting posterior  
622 is used to predict what another agent reported. Accuracy of the posterior determines initial  
623 agent’s reward through the use of a proper scoring rule. Our approach has the advantage to  
624 require slightly less information from the center.

625 Subsequent work extended peer prediction method to settings with weaker information  
626 requirements, at the cost of ‘non-minimality’ (Witkowski and Parkes, 2012b) or introducing  
627 a dynamic setup (Witkowski and Parkes, 2013; Zhang and Chen, 2014). In the Bayesian  
628 truth serum (Prelec, 2004, BTS), agents are assumed to have a common prior belief. But, the  
629 mechanism designer need not have access to that prior. So, BTS can be implemented without  
630 using previous data. In BTS, agents make two reports. In one, they respond to a multiple



631 choice question. In the other, they predict the frequency of each possible response. Agents’  
632 prediction reports are scored based on accuracy. Private responses are scored according to  
633 actual vs predicted endorsement frequencies of responses, such that surprisingly common  
634 answers are scored higher. A Bayesian agent, who shares a common prior belief with others  
635 on population distribution of responses, expects her own response to be more common than  
636 average prediction of all agents. Thus, scoring incentivizes agents to report their true answer.

637 Both the original peer prediction method and BTS are solutions to the problem of truthful  
638 elicitation without verification. They do not incorporate costly effort. The peer prediction  
639 method can be adapted to costly effort by re-scaling payoffs, using the knowledge on common  
640 prior belief. Similar to the peer prediction method, PPM is one-shot and minimal. However,  
641 PPM does not require common prior, nor the complete knowledge of prior beliefs. The  
642 market maker is assumed to know the common prior expectation only. In binary elicitation  
643 problems, PPM provides a simpler and less information demanding alternative to the peer  
644 prediction method.

645 Recent work developed peer prediction mechanisms for effort elicitation in crowdsourcing  
646 problems with unverifiable tasks, such as peer grading, content classification etc. Witkowski  
647 et al. (2013) studied output agreement mechanisms, in which an agent receives positive  
648 payment if her report agrees with a peer agent. Simple output agreement mechanisms do  
649 not achieve truthful elicitation when an agent believes that she holds a minority opinion,  
650 which may also affect effort decision. Dasgupta and Ghosh (2013) use reports in multiple  
651 auxiliary questions to penalize agreement without effort in a binary question of interest.  
652 Given common prior expectation, PPM achieve the same binary elicitation while maintaining  
653 minimality (single task). Shnayder et al. (2016) generalize Dasgupta and Ghosh (2013) to  
654 obtain correlated agreement mechanism for non-binary questions. Correlated agreement uses  
655 multiple questions and requires knowledge of signs of individual correlations across questions.  
656 Peer truth serum for crowdsourcing is another peer agreement mechanism which uses agents’  
657 responses to multiple questions Radanovic et al. (2016). Liu and Chen (2017b) develop

658 sequential peer prediction, in which agents submit answers sequentially and the mechanism  
659 learns the optimal reward for effort elicitation over time. Sequential peer prediction is  
660 minimal, but unlike PPM, requires a dynamic setup. In binary elicitation problems, PPM  
661 offers a simpler minimal alternative to other peer prediction mechanisms for effort elicitation.

662 Bayesian markets (Baillon, 2017) offer a market-based solution for truthful elicitation in  
663 binary questions. In a Bayesian market, agents report an answer to a binary of question of  
664 interest. There is a single asset, whose value is determined by the proportion of agents who  
665 report ‘yes’. Agents receive a costless binary signal, which fully determine their type. Agents  
666 share a common prior belief on population distribution of types. As in our setup, agents  
667 update their beliefs using their own types. Belief updating is ‘impersonal’, agents with the  
668 same type have the same posterior beliefs. A Bayesian type-1 (‘yes’) agent expects a higher  
669 value of asset compared to a Bayesian type-0 (‘no’) agent. Agents who report yes (no) are  
670 allowed to only buy (sell) the asset, at a price drawn randomly from unit interval later. The  
671 market maker executes trades only when majority of agents in both sides of the market (yes  
672 and no) are willing to trade, which occurs when price is within posterior expectations of  
673 the two types. In this setup, both types are incentivized to report their true beliefs. Since  
674 type-1 agents have a higher posterior expectation, they prefer to become buyers when trade  
675 occurs. Vice versa for type-0 agents.

676 In binary truthful elicitation problems, Bayesian markets have an appeal over scoring-  
677 based methods: prediction reports and scoring are replaced by simple betting decisions and  
678 market payoffs. PPM follow a similar approach, but the elicitation procedure is simplified  
679 even further. Unlike Bayesian markets, participants in a PPM do not report an answer.  
680 They trade freely according to their private information. In equilibrium, participant’s true  
681 judgments can be inferred from their trade. In a Bayesian market, trade is an auxiliary tool  
682 to incentivize truthful reports. If the randomly drawn price is not in the appropriate range,  
683 trade may not occur even in the truthful equilibrium. In a PPM, trade occurs at any price.  
684 PPM is more analogous to a prediction market as participants trade at a given price.

## 685 **4.2 Theoretical limitations**

686 PPM, like similar mechanisms, assume risk neutrality. Risk aversion could decrease the  
687 perceived incentives provided by the mechanism. When participation is compulsory however,  
688 the no effort strategy is also risky. In the presence of high risk aversion, a degenerate  
689 equilibrium with no-one providing effort and everyone reporting the same answer would  
690 dominate equilibria with efforts.

691 As illustrated by Propositions 1 to 3, there are several types of equilibria. To those should  
692 be added equilibria in which signal 1 agents report 0 and conversely. These latter equilibria  
693 did not occur in Study 1. Interestingly, at the aggregate level, subjects seemed to play the  
694 strategies of Proposition 3, and those who did not draw a signal played a mixed strategy (at  
695 the aggregate level) where the randomization probability was equal to the prior.

696 We considered a very simple model, binary in all dimensions. Effort could be continuous,  
697 signal informativeness could be a function of effort, and answers could be non-binary. We  
698 leave these refinements for future research.

## 699 **4.3 Empirical limitations**

700 Study 1 made use of tasks borrowed from the experimental literature, which allowed us  
701 to observe effort. The main drawback is that those tasks were artificial, and may have been  
702 seen as quite unnatural. To test whether PPM also elicits more effort and honest answers  
703 in a more realistic context, Study 2 was conducted. Results of Study 2 demonstrate the  
704 real-world validity of PPM.

705 The study was conducted online with participants from the Prolific platform. Participants  
706 from online platforms take part in experiments in an uncontrolled setting, for example, from  
707 home. This lack of experimental control has elicited concerns amongst researchers. However,  
708 experimental research has shown that this concerns is largely unfounded. Hauser and Schwarz  
709 (2016) demonstrated that participants from an online platform are more attentive than  
710 college students. Eyal et al. (2021) demonstrated that Prolific outperformed other participant

711 platforms regarding data quality, supporting our decision to collect data through Prolific.  
712 To ensure high data quality in the current research, post-experimental quiz questions were  
713 included in Study 1, allowing to remove inattentive participants.

714 We initially planned to run Study 2 over four weeks, but we had to stop earlier when  
715 the pandemics amplified in the UK (second wave), making our questions less applicable.  
716 Fortunately, data collected during weeks 0, 1, and 2 already provide valuable insights on the  
717 effectiveness of PPM in a real-world context with unverifiable truths.

718 The questions we used were selected to ensure that the negative feeling of admitting such  
719 behavior would be limited. For instance, in most statements, non-compliance could have  
720 been due to behavior of others.

721 The final two empirical limitations concern the interpretation of the results. The flat fee  
722 condition suggests substantial intrinsic motivation. PPM clearly elicited further effort (Study  
723 1) and honest responses (Study 2). Less clear is whether PPM elicited honest responses in  
724 Study 1 and whether PPM elicited increased effort in Study 2. PPM led to increased per-  
725 formance compared to the flat fee control on the prediction task in Study 1. In order to  
726 perform well on this task, participants should combine all available information - including  
727 information gained from completing the effort task - to form an educated guess. Includ-  
728 ing incorrect information, either through misunderstanding or dishonesty, would negatively  
729 influence their educated guess and subsequently, their performance on the task. Arguably,  
730 the need for honesty is not practically relevant in the prediction task, since there were no  
731 costs associated with honesty. In Study 1, honesty was the optimal choice, there was no  
732 trade-off to be made. To explicitly test whether PPM can elicit honest answers, Study 2  
733 was designed. In Study 2, participants were asked about their violations of COVID guide-  
734 lines. The discrepancy between the prevalence of self-reported lies (Debey et al., 2015) and  
735 lies told during experimental research (Feldman et al., 2002) demonstrates that people are  
736 reluctant to admit anti-social behavior. Since violations of COVID guidelines could nega-  
737 tively affect the health of both oneself and others, a violation of COVID guidelines can be

738 seen as immoral behavior. Results of Study 2 demonstrate that participants in the PPM  
739 condition admitted more violations of COVID guidelines than participants in both control  
740 conditions. These results demonstrate that PPM can elicit more honest responses. PPM  
741 may have helped overcome the ‘shame’ of reporting non-compliance with health guidelines  
742 ( $a_i$  in the theory).

743 Unlike in Study 1, in Study 2 it is unclear whether PPM increased effort. Effort was  
744 operationalized as increased response time. While participants in the PPM condition took  
745 longer to respond than participants in the Control 1 condition, they did not take longer  
746 than participants in the Control 2 condition. The PPM and Control 2 condition contained  
747 additional information about the percentage of participants endorsing the COVID relation  
748 behaviour in the previous week’s survey. The additional time it takes to read and process this  
749 information may better explain the response time differences between Control 1 on the one  
750 hand and Control 2 and PPM on the other hand. Since response time is a proxy rather than  
751 a direct measure of effort, this finding does not mean that PPM does not elicit additional  
752 effort, but the effect of PPM on effort in Study 2 remains inconclusive.

## 753 **5 Conclusion**

754 For events with ex-post verifiable outcomes, prediction markets are known to be effective  
755 in eliciting and aggregating informed judgments. However, prediction markets are not suit-  
756 able for unverifiable judgments, as the outcome-based rewards are not feasible. Researchers  
757 and practitioners typically resort to simple surveys with fixed rewards, which do not provide  
758 incentives to acquire costly information. PPM provide a market mechanism that incentivize  
759 agents to seek information and trade truthfully on binary questions of unverifiable informa-  
760 tion. Experimental evidence suggests that incentives provided by a PPM motivates agents  
761 to seek costly information in judgment formation.

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## A Additional experimental materials

Pair	Left box	Right box	Prior expectation on yellow in the actual box
1.	40 yellow, 60 blue	20 yellow, 80 blue	30
2.	40 yellow, 60 blue	30 yellow, 70 blue	35
3.	48 yellow, 52 blue	32 yellow, 68 blue	40
4.	56 yellow, 44 blue	34 yellow, 66 blue	45
5.	62 yellow, 38 blue	38 yellow, 62 blue	50
6.	57 yellow, 43 blue	43 yellow, 57 blue	50
7.	69 yellow, 31 blue	41 yellow, 59 blue	55
8.	69 yellow, 31 blue	51 yellow, 49 blue	60
9.	78 yellow, 22 blue	52 yellow, 48 blue	65
10.	77 yellow, 23 blue	63 yellow, 37 blue	70

Table A1: The content of boxes and prior expectation on yellow in each pair

## B Summary statistics

Table B1: Summary statistics, Study 1

	<b>Experimental Condition</b>		
	Flat	Accuracy	PPM
Number of subjects	68	72	70
Female/Male	29/39	36/36	34/36
Average age	23.09	23.76	22.64
US resident	63	65	62
Average duration	8 min 59 sec	9 min 31 sec	9 min 8 sec
Average reward	£3.25	£3.50	£3.342
Correct answer in pre-experimental quiz	54	67	57
Correct answer in post-experimental quiz	68	72	66

Table B2: Study 2, Week 0 answers

Question	<b>Percentage of ‘true’ picks</b>				
	once or more	twice or more	3 times or more	4 times or more	5 times or more
1	18	12	6	4	4
2	76	50	20	6	2
3	58	22	8	4	2
4	16	8	0	0	0
5	70	34	14	4	2
6	24	10	8	4	2
7	54	24	8	2	2
8	12	4	2	2	2

Table B3: Summary statistics, Study 2

	<b>Exp. Condition / version</b>					
<b>Week 1</b>						
	Control-1 / 'once'	Control-2 / 'once'	Treatment / 'once'	Control-1 / 'twice'	Control-2 / 'twice'	Treatment / 'twice'
Number of subjects	53	53	52	54	54	53
Female/Male	36/17	36/17	33/19	36/18	25/29	33/20
Average age	24.85	23.53	22.73	23.11	23.57	25.17
UK/Non-UK citizen	42/11	36/17	40/12	44/10	45/9	37/16
Average duration	2 min 10 sec	2 min 38 sec	3 min 34 sec	2 min 14 sec	2 min 30 sec	3 min 38 sec
Average reward	£1.75	£1.75	£2.03	£1.75	£1.75	£1.81
<b>Week 2</b>						
Number of subjects	54	52	54	54	54	54
Female/Male	31/23	31/21	39/15	37/17	39/15	38/16
Average age	24.39	25.65	24.98	25.13	24.25	25.09
UK/Non-UK citizen	46/8	44/8	43/11	43/11	46/8	48/6
Average duration	2 min 14 sec	2 min 52 sec	3 min 44 sec	2 min 45 sec	2 min 25 sec	4 min 12 sec
Average bonus	£1.75	£1.75	£1.66	£1.75	£1.75	£1.73

819 **C Additional results**

820 **C.1 Study 1**

(a) Correlation tests

Draw	Pearson's C.C.	Spearman's C.C.
yellow	$r = 0.53, p = 0.118$	$\rho = 0.52, p = 0.121$
blue	$r = 0.28, p = 0.425$	$\rho = 0.21, p = 0.555$
no draw	$r = 0.64, p = 0.048$	$\rho = 0.68, p = 0.032$

(b) Two-sided t-test and Wilcoxon test

Draw	T-test	Wilcoxon test
yellow	$t = 8.56, p < 0.001$	$W = 100, p < 0.001$
blue	$t = -8.12, p < 0.001$	$W = 1, p < 0.001$
no draw	$t = -0.34, p = 0.739$	$W = 44, p = 0.676$

Table C1: Proportion of left picks vs prior expectation on the number of yellow balls in the actual box.

	<i>Dep. var.: P(effort task completed)</i>			
	<i>(whole sample)</i>		<i>(filtered sample)</i>	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Flat	-0.13*	-0.11*	-0.13*	-0.10*
	(0.05)	(0.05)	(0.05)	(0.05)
Accuracy	0.09*	0.11**	0.10*	0.11**
	(0.04)	(0.04)	(0.04)	(0.04)
Age		-0.00		-0.00
		(0.00)		(0.00)
Female?		0.04		0.03
		(0.03)		(0.03)
US resident		-0.02		-0.02
		(0.06)		(0.06)
Num. obs.	2100	2070	2060	2030
Log Likelihood	-821.85	-768.69	-816.44	-763.58
Deviance	1643.70	1537.38	1632.88	1527.16
AIC	1649.70	1549.38	1638.88	1539.16
BIC	1666.65	1583.19	1655.77	1572.86

\*\*\* $p < 0.001$ ; \*\* $p < 0.01$ ; \* $p < 0.05$ ; + $p < 0.1$

Table C2: Marginal effects, logit regression (baseline category: Accuracy)

<i>Dep. var.: P(effort task completed)</i>				
	<i>(whole sample)</i>		<i>(filtered sample)</i>	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
PPM	0.11** (0.04)	0.10** (0.03)	0.11** (0.04)	0.09** (0.03)
Accuracy	0.19*** (0.03)	0.19*** (0.03)	0.19*** (0.04)	0.19*** (0.03)
Age		-0.00 (0.00)		-0.00 (0.00)
Female?		0.04 (0.03)		0.03 (0.04)
US resident		-0.03 (0.06)		-0.03 (0.06)
Num. obs.	2100	2070	2060	2030
Log Likelihood	-821.85	-768.78	-816.44	-763.66
Deviance	1643.70	1537.56	1632.88	1527.33
AIC	1649.70	1549.56	1638.88	1539.33
BIC	1666.65	1583.37	1655.77	1573.02

\*\*\* $p < 0.001$ ; \*\* $p < 0.01$ ; \* $p < 0.05$ ; + $p < 0.1$

Table C3: Marginal effects, probit regression (baseline category: Flat)

<i>Dep. var.: P(effort task completed)</i>								
	<i>(logit)</i>		<i>(logit, filtered)</i>		<i>(probit)</i>		<i>(probit, filtered)</i>	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
(Intercept)	0.92*** (0.22)	1.91* (0.86)	0.92*** (0.22)	1.91* (0.87)	0.57*** (0.13)	1.17* (0.48)	0.57*** (0.13)	1.18* (0.49)
Accuracy	1.91*** (0.43)	2.15*** (0.41)	1.91*** (0.43)	2.15*** (0.41)	1.03*** (0.22)	1.13*** (0.20)	1.03*** (0.22)	1.13*** (0.20)
PPM	1.05*** (0.36)	0.96* (0.37)	0.98** (0.36)	0.89* (0.37)	0.59** (0.20)	0.54** (0.21)	0.56** (0.20)	0.51* (0.21)
Age		-0.04 (0.03)		-0.04 (0.03)		-0.02 (0.02)		-0.02 (0.02)
Female?		0.37 (0.33)		0.33 (0.33)		0.19 (0.18)		0.17 (0.18)
US resident?		-0.24 (0.65)		-0.19 (0.65)		-0.17 (0.33)		-0.14 (0.34)

\*\*\* $p < 0.001$ ; \*\* $p < 0.01$ ; \* $p < 0.05$ ; + $p < 0.1$

Table C4: Regression estimates (baseline: Flat)

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822 C.2.1 Figures on responses and response times

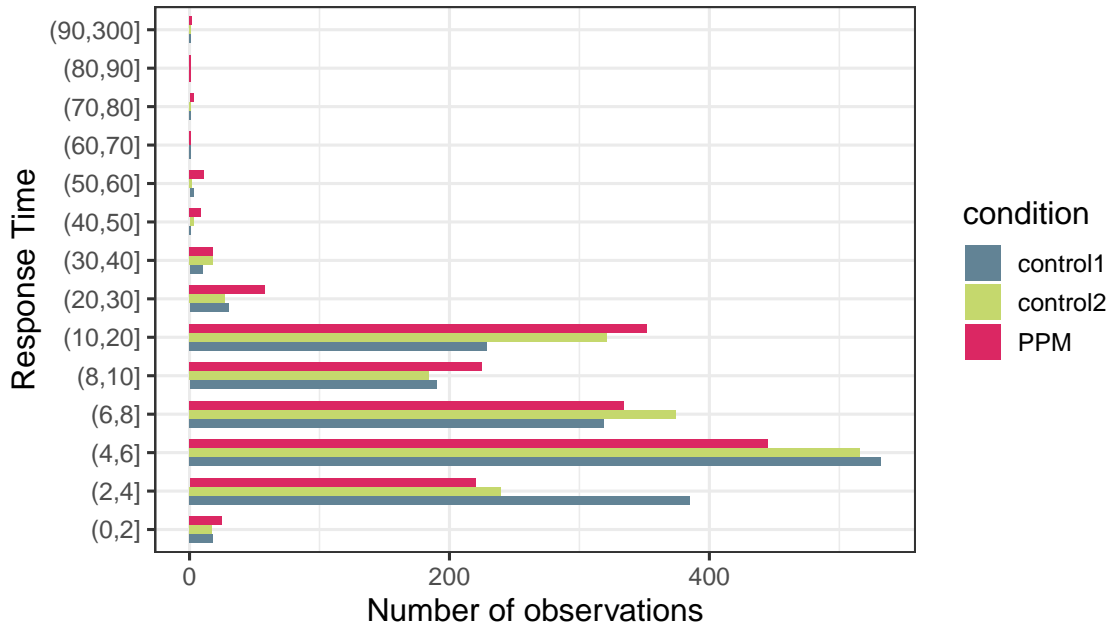


Figure C1: Response times

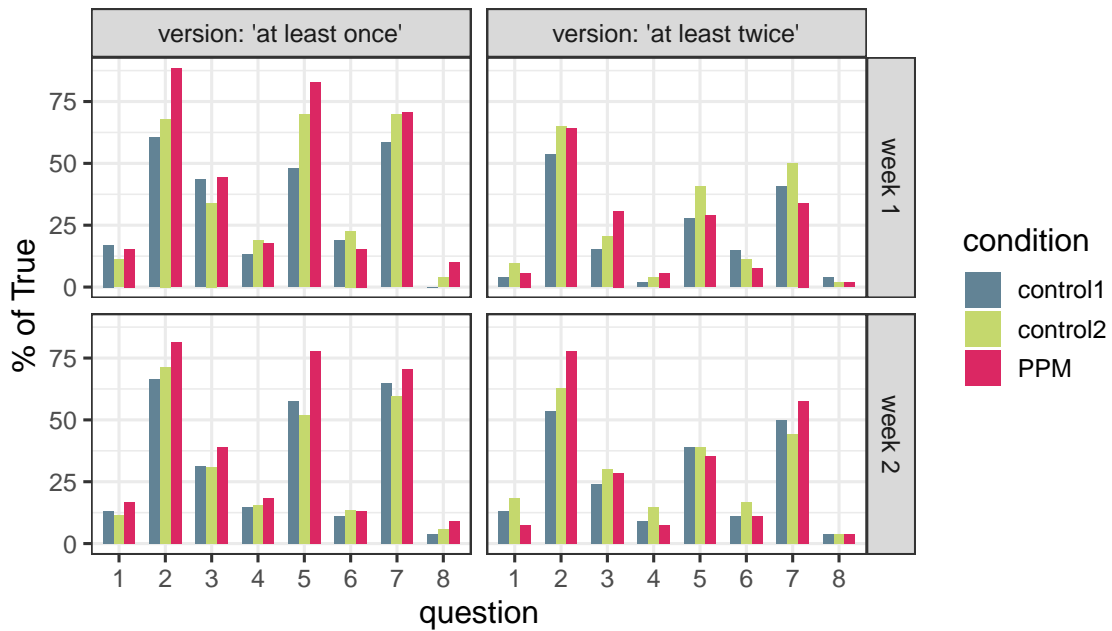


Figure C2: Proportion of participants who complete effort tasks in each prediction task.

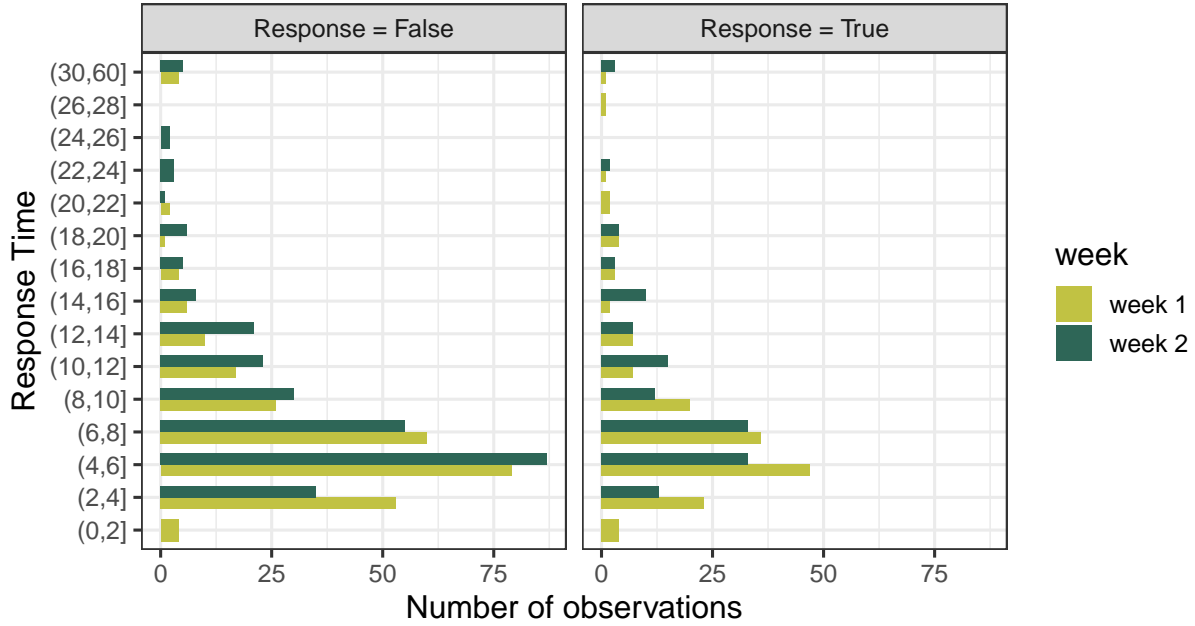


Figure C3: Response times in control-2 ‘at least once’ survey, weeks 1 and 2

	<i>(week 1)</i>		<i>(week 2)</i>	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
(Intercept)	6.75***	7.39***	6.95***	8.07***
	(0.28)	(1.11)	(0.42)	(0.98)
Control-2	0.61	0.51	1.66**	1.64**
	(0.48)	(0.49)	(0.60)	(0.59)
PPM	2.37***	2.35***	1.14 <sup>+</sup>	0.99
	(0.62)	(0.61)	(0.62)	(0.63)
Age		-0.01		0.00
		(0.04)		(0.02)
Female?		0.28		0.41
		(0.50)		(0.51)
UK citizen?		-0.80		-1.65*
		(0.51)		(0.64)
R <sup>2</sup>	0.03	0.03	0.01	0.03
Adj. R <sup>2</sup>	0.03	0.03	0.01	0.02
Num. obs.	1259	1259	1279	1279
RMSE	5.89	5.89	5.81	5.78
N Clusters	158	158	160	160

\*\*\* $p < 0.001$ ; \*\* $p < 0.01$ ; \* $p < 0.05$ ; + $p < 0.1$

Table C5: Response time regressions, estimated separately for weeks 1 and 2.

	<i>(week 1)</i>		<i>(week 2)</i>	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Control-2	0.05 (0.04)	0.04 (0.04)	-0.01 (0.04)	-0.00 (0.04)
PPM	0.11*** (0.03)	0.10** (0.03)	0.08* (0.04)	0.08* (0.04)
Age		-0.00 (0.00)		-0.00 (0.00)
Female?		0.02 (0.03)		-0.02 (0.03)
UK citizen?		-0.00 (0.03)		0.03 (0.04)
Num. obs.	1259	1259	1279	1279
Log Likelihood	-828.13	-826.36	-827.33	-825.89
Deviance	1656.27	1652.71	1654.66	1651.78
AIC	1662.27	1664.71	1660.66	1663.78
BIC	1677.68	1695.54	1676.13	1694.71

\*\*\* $p < 0.001$ ; \*\* $p < 0.01$ ; \* $p < 0.05$ ; + $p < 0.1$

Table C6: Probit marginal effects

	<i>Logistic</i>				<i>Probit</i>			
	<i>(week 1)</i>		<i>(week 2)</i>		<i>(week 1)</i>		<i>(week 2)</i>	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
(Intercept)	-0.74*** (0.10)	-0.31 (0.33)	-0.71*** (0.11)	-0.56* (0.28)	-0.46*** (0.06)	-0.20 (0.20)	-0.44*** (0.06)	-0.35* (0.17)
Control-2	0.22 (0.16)	0.19 (0.16)	-0.02 (0.16)	-0.01 (0.16)	0.13 (0.10)	0.12 (0.10)	-0.01 (0.09)	-0.01 (0.09)
PPM	0.46*** (0.13)	0.43** (0.13)	0.34* (0.16)	0.36* (0.16)	0.29*** (0.08)	0.26** (0.08)	0.21* (0.10)	0.22* (0.10)
Age		-0.02 (0.01)		-0.01 (0.01)		-0.01 (0.01)		-0.01 (0.00)
Female		0.08 (0.13)		-0.09 (0.13)		0.05 (0.08)		-0.05 (0.08)
UK citizen?		-0.01 (0.13)		0.14 (0.16)		-0.01 (0.08)		0.09 (0.10)

\*\*\* $p < 0.001$ ; \*\* $p < 0.01$ ; \* $p < 0.05$ ; + $p < 0.1$

Table C7: Logistic and probit regression estimates (baseline: control-1)



824 C.2.3 Analysis on ‘at least twice’ survey data

	<i>P(response = ‘true’), marginal effects</i>				<i>Response time</i>	
	<i>(week 1)</i>		<i>(week 2)</i>		<i>(pooled)</i>	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
(Intercept)					6.76***	9.11***
					(0.36)	(1.00)
Control-2	0.05 <sup>+</sup>	0.05 <sup>+</sup>	0.03	0.04	0.94 <sup>+</sup>	1.18*
	(0.03)	(0.03)	(0.04)	(0.04)	(0.53)	(0.50)
PPM	0.02	0.04	0.03	0.04	2.56***	2.56***
	(0.03)	(0.03)	(0.04)	(0.03)	(0.66)	(0.66)
Age		-0.00*		-0.00 <sup>+</sup>		-0.07**
		(0.00)		(0.00)		(0.03)
Female?		0.00		-0.02		0.84
		(0.02)		(0.03)		(0.55)
UK citizen?		0.07**		-0.03		-1.65*
		(0.03)		(0.04)		(0.72)
Num. obs.	1284	1276	1294	1286	1284	1276
Log Likelihood	-684.32	-674.50	-761.46	-754.97		
Deviance	1368.64	1349.01	1522.92	1509.94		
AIC	1374.64	1361.01	1528.92	1521.94		
BIC	1390.12	1391.91	1544.42	1552.90		
R <sup>2</sup>					0.03	0.05
Adj. R <sup>2</sup>					0.03	0.04
RMSE					6.06	6.02
N Clusters					161	160

\*\*\* $p < 0.001$ ; \*\* $p < 0.01$ ; \* $p < 0.05$ ; + $p < 0.1$

Table C8: Logistic regression and linear regression on response times, ‘at least twice’ version