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| 1. **Cognitive Ability**   Cognitive abilities are skills such analysis, evaluation, synthesis and problem solving. Cognitive abilities relate to the intellectual dimension of your PhD, but they also impact on the practical side of candidature. Problem solving in particular is a skill which you can engage with during everyday encounters, for example issues with finances, access to information or computing difficulties.  The following exercises are designed to highlight the skills you need to recognise problems and ultimately to solve those problems, taking you through one of the core transferable skills. |

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| **Part I: Cognitive Ability – Recognising Problems**  **Task:** listen to the conversation between a PhD student and an ECR about the specific problems the student is encountering with her project. In the 7-min clip there are ten issues that relate to the specific problem. Can you identify them? |

See overleaf for self-assessment and next steps.

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| **Self-Assessment Cognitive Ability Part I – Recognising Problems**  **How well have you done on the task?**  You can self-assess how well you have done on this taks by allocating 1 point to each of the statements in the list below that you recognised correctly.   1. Topic: ethics approval for PhD project  * Student worries about approval for next phase of data gathering * Supervisor worries that data gathering may be unethical and therefore in jeopardy * Student worries that clearing process could interfere with data gathering (producing valid data) and therefore it is in jeopardy  1. Different ethics clearing processes at different phases of the project  * Project accepted in first round, not second  1. Solutions: different information/ consent materials for different groups of participants  * Info sheet for anonymous interlocutors) * Recorded consent for all interviewees * Informed consent for participating students  1. Content of consent forms:  * University logo * Project title and short project description * Promise of anonymity |

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| **Next Steps Cognitive Ability I**  **5 Points or Less**  If you have assigned yourself 5 points or less, you need to develop your skills in listening, recognising problems and the ethics clearing process. You should seek advice from an experienced researcher about research ethics guidelines in your discipline and practise listening, for example taking tips from <http://www.uefap.com/listen/listfram.htm>.  **6-8 Points**  If you have assigned yourself between 5 and 8 points you should work out what it is you are struggling with specifically. For example is it careful listening or your knowledge of the ethics requirements? You can brush up on your listening skills with further online training in listening at <http://www.uefap.com/listen/listfram.htm> and try browsing your University’s website for information on the ethics clearing procedure.  **9-10 Points**  You clearly have strong skills in this area. Why not consider sharing your expertise with other students? For example, you could advise your peers on preparation for completing the ethics checklist. |