



# Joseph Banks Secondary College

## Research Methods and Biological Influences

**Worth 8% of the School Mark**

### **Assessment task sheet and marking key**

**Task details: Choose one of the questions below to answer**

1. Use class time to prepare ONE page, ONE sided of handwritten notes in DOT POINTS only
2. Write an introduction, 3-4 body paragraphs and conclusion, clearly constructing arguments and using psychological terminology
3. Identify, describe and apply social psychological phenomena
4. Refer to at-least 2 pieces of psychological research, using in-text citation

### **Question 1**

Sally is a middle-aged woman who doesn't like the idea of getting the COVID-19 jab, she sees the benefit in other countries where COVID-19 is ravaging the nation and overwhelming their healthcare systems but does not feel the need to get the jab in Australia as there are very few and far between cases. Currently, this opinion of hers is mild and doesn't impact her normal routine. However, when Sally reads an article on the internet about "the dangers of mRNA vaccines" and "the governments COVID plans to limit freewill", she joins a group on Facebook that is focused around uncovering the "truth". She becomes more and more engaged in conversations online and in the "research" that the group provides. When lockdown happens, she decides not to wear a mask and to for-go social distancing guidelines to join an anti-lockdown protest.

At the protest no-one is wearing masks and there are "expert" guest speakers who are rallying the groups present. After the protest Sally see's two Asian, masked pedestrians who are being harassed by a few people who are still left at the protest. The protesters are not letting the masked pedestrians move past and trying to get them to "take their masks off" and blaming them for the "fake Asian spread virus" and calling them "Kung flu". Sally would call herself a caring and kind person but she did not step in to help the pedestrians.

Use your understanding of social psychology explain why the Sally's views and behaviours changed. Use evidence from research to support your arguments.

## **Question 2**

US soldiers committed a series of human rights violations against detainees in the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq. Most of the prisoners were civilians, many of whom had been picked up in random military sweeps and at highway checkpoints. Some of the abuses included breaking chemical lights and pouring the phosphoric liquid on detainees; pouring cold water on naked detainees; beating detainees with a broom handle and a chair; threatening detainees with rape; and using military working dogs to frighten and intimidate detainees with threats of attack. One of the military defence attorneys said that his client's defence will be that he was carrying out the orders of his superiors and, copying the behaviours of his fellow comrades and superior officers who were committing these crimes.

Use your understanding of Social Psychology explain why the soldiers committed these abuses. Use evidence from research to support your arguments.

| Marking Key   |                |                |
|---|----------------|----------------|
|   | Possible Marks | Allocated Mark |
| <b>Conformity/Group Polarisation</b>  | <b>5</b>       |                |
| Correct and detailed description  | 5              |                |
| - Definition and detailed description   | 3-4            |                |
| Correct description but is missing information  | 1-2            |                |
| Contains some generalisations and statements consistent with current psychological understandings   |                |                |
| <b>Obedience/Filter Bubble/Bystander Effect</b>   | <b>5</b>       |                |
| Correct and detailed description  | 5              |                |
| - Definition and description  | 3-4            |                |
| Correct description but is missing information  | 1-2            |                |
| Contains some generalisations and statements consistent with current psychological understandings   |                |                |
| <b>Application C/GP</b>   | <b>5</b>       |                |
| Identifies key term (obedience, conformity, G.P, B.E or Filter bubble)  | 1              |                |
| Describes what the key term means   | 1-2            |                |
| Applies to the scenario correctly   | 1-2            |                |
| <b>Application O/FB</b>   | <b>5</b>       |                |
| Identifies key term (obedience, conformity, G.P, B.E or Filter bubble)  | 1              |                |
| Describes what the key term means   | 1-2            |                |
| Applies to the scenario correctly   | 1-2            |                |
| <b>Communication skills</b>   | <b>5</b>       |                |
| A well-constructed answer, use of appropriate psychological language, clear, concise and relevant introduction and conclusion   | 5              |                |
| A well-constructed answer, use of appropriate psychological language, use of appropriate introduction and conclusion  | 4              |                |
| Appropriate paragraph structure, use of some psychological language, brief introduction and conclusion  | 3              |                |
| Answers with well-developed sentences and paragraphs, limited psychological language, no introduction or conclusion   | 2              |                |
| Lack of paragraph structure and incoherent responses  | 1              |                |
| <b>Evidence quality</b>   | <b>5</b>       |                |
| Two or more examples of detailed description of relevant psychological evidence using APA in-text referencing (e.g. 3-4 sentences about a specific research study and findings) | 5              |                |
| Two or more examples of detailed description of relevant psychological evidence with an attempt to reference (e.g. 2-4 sentences about a specific research study and findings)  | 4              |                |
| One example of detailed description of relevant psychological evidence (e.g. 3-4 sentences about a specific research study and findings)  | 3              |                |
| Relevant psychological evidence, including some description   | 2              |                |
| Psychological evidence consists of names/statements only without description (e.g. name of study, name of researcher)   | 1              |                |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>30</b>      |                |