

## Year 12 ATAR Psychology

### TASK: Social Psychology validation (70% of task)

You will be provided with one question where you will be required to demonstrate your understanding of the social psychology theories studied throughout the unit.

**2 minutes reading time. 33 minutes to complete this task. 35 minutes total.**

#### Question 1 – (34 marks)

Matt is 29 years old, brought up in a wealthy family, he went to the best school in Perth and works as an Engineer now. He has recently quit his job at BHP as he wants to work more in renewable energies and hates how using fossil fuels is destroying the planet. Instead, he now works at his uncles' renewable energies company, where quite quickly he is up for promotion. This has rubbed a couple of his new colleagues up the wrong way. One of his colleagues Fatima has been at the company for 5 years and was the obvious choice for promotion before Matt joined a few months ago. Fatima moved to Perth 4 years ago from Afghanistan after her family and family friends pooled their money together to send her to Australia so that she could further her career. She is frustrated that Matt has "swooped in" and will take the promotion even though he isn't as experienced or as senior as she is. When going out for lunch with colleagues, she mentions some of the things that annoy her about Matt, like how he "always re-words what she said and takes the credit" or "leaves the staff kitchen a mess". Her work colleagues all agree and the comments start getting worse such as "he never does his fair share on projects and gets all the credit" or "he is only getting promoted as he is related to the boss".

Although not getting the promotion is stressful for Fatima, she bounces back from not getting the promotion and rationalises to herself that this is what is "best for everyone at the company", seeks feedback from her boss to find out what she would need to do to be promoted next time. Matt sees the promotion as completely fair as he works hard and has good experience in other companies and hopes his colleagues will warm up to him.

Explain the psychological processes that have influenced Matt and Fatima's thoughts, emotions and behaviour.

In your answer you should include:

- Define Cognitive Dissonance, explain where it can be seen in the scenario
- Explain how the cognitive dissonance was overcome in the scenario and identify another alternate way in which cognitive dissonance can be resolved
- Identify the concept that explains the changing group opinion on Matt
- Outline two theories that explain why opinions about Matt became more and more negative
- Referring to the relevant theorist outline attribution theory
- Explain two variables in Kelly's covariant model and apply this to Fatima's attributions on Matt's promotion
- Identifies an attribution error in the scenario and explain how culture may contribute to these errors
- Outline the method and findings of ONE piece of relevant research
- Evaluate the usefulness of this research in helping understand this scenario

**Planning:**

[illegible]





