

Assessment Task 4 – In-class Essay

The psychological factors that influence pro-social behaviour

Essay framework

Introduction:

- *Define pro-social behaviour.*

- *Give one example of pro-social behaviour engaged in by individuals, a group and at a society/national level:*
 - *Individuals:*

 - *Group:*

 - *Society/national level:*

Psychological characteristics:

- *Briefly outline the factors influencing pro-social behaviour you will discuss in your essay:*
 - *Individual differences:*

 - *Group/situational factors:*

 - *Societal factors:*

Psychological characteristics:

*Discuss whether individuals who engage in pro-social behaviour have psychological characteristics that make them **different** from individuals who do not engage in pro-social behaviour. **Discuss two (2) of the following four factors in your essay:***

- a) **Biological differences in the brain:** - pro-social behaviour is inherited - genetics and survival? What is the role of similarity between the potential helper and the person in need of help?

Self and other -pg 52
Braten (1996)

- b) **Cognitive differences:** - the role of mood and attitude, empathy – seeing things from another's perspective, perceived competence, how events are interpreted

Page 426 - 427. Oxford book

c) ***Age and development differences:*** - How do people learn pro-social behaviour? (i.e. Bandura's observational learning theory & Bobo Doll experiment?) When is pro-social behaviour first displayed? Does environment play a role in the development of pro-social behaviour?

Group & societal characteristics:

- *How do group and societal factors influence participation in pro-social behaviour? Consider factors that influence the likelihood of someone to help. Ensure you fully define the term then explain how it influences whether a person will act pro-socially.*
 - **Group factors:** social influence, bystander effect, diffusion of responsibility and audience inhibition. **Discuss any two.**

Oxford text end of pg. 422 - 423

- **Societal factors:** social norms, reciprocity principle and the social responsibility norm. **Discuss any two.**

Oxford text pg. 426

4. Conclusion- paragraph about the extent to which factors related to self, others and society explain people's participation in pro-social behaviour.