

Year 12 ATAR Psychology

TASK 11: Social Psychology and Culture and Values

Name: _____

Task:

You will be provided with two (2) questions where you will be required to demonstrate your understanding of the personality theories studied throughout the unit. **You must answer two (2) questions.**

Please record your response on the lined paper provided, clearly labelling which question you are addressing at the top of the page.

3 minutes reading time. 61 minutes to complete this task.

Question 1 – 25 marks

Rinku is an Indian athlete who was scouted by an American sports agent to play baseball in America, even though he had not played baseball before. Rinku was social and talkative to his new agent and colleagues, he was very excited to go to the United States as he saw it as a huge opportunity to become an international athlete and live in prosperity.

During intense training for 9 months, Rinku had his first try-out for professional teams. The try-out is a complete disaster, as he was very nervous, pitching without speed or control and was extremely embarrassing. Initially, Rinku could not bear the humiliation, after a couple of weeks, Rinku reached out for help from his coach and friends, who he became much closer to. He realised that he needs to let go of his concern of what others think of him and focus on his enjoyment of the game. His coach and friends recommended trying again for another try-out in 6 months, so he trained longer and with a renewed sense of determination, beginning to feel a spiritual connection to the game. This time around, his performance in the try-outs are even better than he has ever performed before and was hired for a professional team.

Explain the psychological processes that influenced Rinku's behaviour during and after the try-outs. In your answer, you should discuss:

- the impact of the presence of others on individual behaviour and use this to explain Rinku's performances.
- the impact of significant events on individuals and use this to explain Rinku's response.
- refer to psychological evidence, outlining and evaluation of ONE piece of evidence.

Planning:

Question 2 – (32 marks)

Matt is 29 years old, brought up in a wealthy family, he went to the best school in Perth and eventually went on to study engineering. 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 Uncle's 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 Pakistan 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 good 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 "never does his dishes". 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 talks it through with her close friends who she met through the LGBTQIA community. They regularly meet, put on events and often hang out and have deep conversations after these events. She bounces back from not getting the promotion and quickly goes to seek feedback from her boss to find out what she would need to do to get the promotion 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 the cause of Matt's cognitive dissonance
- Explain how Matt overcame his cognitive dissonance and one alternative way in which he could have overcome this dissonance
- Identify and define the concept that explains the group opinion getting negative about Matt
- Outline two theories that explain why opinions about Matt became more and more negative
- Referring to the relevant theorist explain why Matt believed that the promotion was fair
- Outline the method and findings of ONE piece of relevant research and evaluate the usefulness of this research in helping understand this scenario

Planning:

