***Extended response 2019 / 2020 – Social psychology validation***

Groups of students organise to rent houses in Margaret Ri for a week during Leavers. Some rent close to the main settlement, others further away in houses at Geordie Bay. Pixie, an 18-year-old Psychology student renting with a group of girlfriends, is very observant. As the week progresses, she notices a number of curious things.

Firstly, girls renting near the main settlement, as Pixie is, tend to hang out together. She finds it funny that they all seem to have brought the same sort of clothes to wear. Even their opinions about favourite movies on Netflix are the same! But more worryingly, Pixie has heard girls saying increasingly unpleasant things about the Geordie Bay girls as the week has progressed. It started with some comments like: “Can you believe you they dress like THAT?” But now, they are saying things like: “They are such a bunch of hags” and, “They look like they’re all on drugs”. She is surprised at the comments since the girls don’t really mix between the two areas except at evening parties and concerts. And then all they seem to do is try to get the attention of the boys on the island!

Secondly, Pixie is walking to the shops one day when she sees a girl stumbling from side to side, nearly falling over. As she goes over to check, someone whizzes past on a bicycle and shouts scornfully “Geordie Bay – drunk all day!” But as Pixie gets closer she sees the girl has a Medi-Alert Bracelet on her wrist. It reads “Diabetic”. Pixie realises the girl’s blood sugar levels may be dangerously low. Fortunately, the Nursing Post is on the next corner, and Pixie supports the girl to get there. Pixie does wonder why no one else was prepared to help.

Thirdly, Pixie notices that the chores in the share house are not going as well as she expected. Although all six girls agreed that they would all wash up every evening, and sweep and tidy every morning before leaving, things are just not working out this way. Pip and Carrie in particular seem to be able to slip out of the house or have a reason for not doing things. “Why do some people never do their share?” Pixie wonders. She ponders if there could have been a better way to do things.

Finally, it was time to go home. Pixie thought back over the sick people she had nursed, the nuisance of the chores and how little time she had actually spent having fun. It had cost her at least $500 for the week – and possibly more when she added it all up. But later that night, when her two younger sisters were excitedly asking her about Leavers Pixie found herself thinking – well, actually it was a lot of fun.

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Use evidence from the scenario to name, explain, and apply THREE different psychological processes seen in Pixie’s experiences. In your explanation, demonstrate your knowledge of at least one key landmark study in social psychology and any other relevant research.

Planning space: