

2021 – 12 ATAR Psychology

Task 10 – Extended Answer

5%

Time allowed: 45 minutes

Community, culture and values

Name:

Due Date:

Score: /28

**Extended Response (28 marks)**

Aramula is an island located in the Pacific Ocean and has a highly-successful fishing and tourist industry. Community members refer to themselves as ‘Aramulan’ and many families have lived there for many generations. It is a close community in which members are valued and expected to contribute to the economy and social life.

Aramulan people use a local dialect of the national language that only they understand. All children attend the community school and all adults contribute to community through paid or voluntary work.

The community has a central hall where regular meetings are held. Only members of the Aramulan community can contribute to these meetings and they have proved successful in solving problems within the community. They also have a yearly celebration held in the hall known as ‘Jimbar’, which involves eating traditional foods and making customary headwear. Jimbar is described by the Aramulan to be a highly spiritual event.

One day, the Aramulan received news that a group of four young adults had disappeared on a fishing trip. This was especially worrying as major seasonal storms were forecast.

Their capsized boat, as well as some items of clothing were discovered floating near an uninhabited island with dense jungle. Due to the impending storm, the local community could not conduct the search themselves so they called in rescue services from the closest mainland country. All Aramulans participated in the rescue effort in whatever ways they could, such as preparing food for rescue services when they were off duty and providing local knowledge of the islands and waters near Aramula.

Due to the dangers associated with the rescue and the bad weather conditions, the young adults were not found until four days later when the weather subsided. They were located on the island by helicopters spotting a fire signal that the adults can managed to create. One of them had to be treated for a fracture as they had fallen in the dense jungle but there was no loss of life.

McMillan and Chavis developed a model to explain ‘sense of community’ and other psychologists have been interested in how significant events can affect a community and individuals within it.

Referring to the above scenario, discuss how the individuals and community responded to this significant event.

In your response, include:

* define ‘sense of community’ according to McMillan and Chavis (3 marks)
* define and describe ‘membership’ within the McMillan and Chavis model (4 marks)
* define and describe ‘shared emotional connection’ within the McMillan and Chavis model (4 marks)
* apply the concepts of ‘membership’ and ‘shared emotional connection’ to the scenario (4 marks)
* name and describe the event characteristics that contribute to stress in individuals and

communities (3 marks)

* Referring to the scenario, illustrate your understanding of the event characteristics that contribute to stress in individuals and the community. (3 marks)
* Describe resilience and identify factors that could protect against post-traumatic stress in the young adults after being rescued. (4 marks)
* Quality of response (3 marks)

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| **Guide to Marking Extended Response** | **Marks** |
| **Definition** | **3** |
|  | 0-5 |
| **Membership** | **4** |
| Definition:  feeling of belonging and feeling oneself is invested in the community. (accept other relevant definition)  Description:  One mark for any of the following, max. 3 marks   * membership includes boundaries that define those who belong and those who do not. * boundaries provide members with the emotional safety necessary for needs and feelings to be exposed and for intimacy to develop * groups often use language, dress and rituals to create boundaries. People need these barriers to protect against threat * boundaries are the most troublesome feature of this part of the definition of sense of community as deviants within the community or outsiders can be used to establish boundaries that can lead to persecution or punishment * emotional safety is considered part of the broader notion of security * boundaries established by membership criteria provide the structure andsecurity that protect group intimacy * emotional safety includes the willingness of members to reveal their feelings to one another * sense of belonging and identification involves the feeling, belief and expectation that one fits into the group and has a place there * sense of belonging and identification involves a feeling of acceptance by the group * personal investment contributes to a sense of community as working for membership will provide a feeling that one has earned a place in the group * as a consequence of personal investment, membership will be more meaningful and valuable * a common symbol system maintains group boundaries and may include language, dress, rites of passage, celebrations, myths and holidays * a common symbol system is symbolic of the social bond and is required to obtain smooth functioning and integration in the social life of the community * groups use the social conventions (common symbol system) as boundaries to create distance between members and non-members\* * identification with the group is important and may be expressed in statements such as ‘It is my group’; and ‘I am part of the group’. | 1  1-3 |
| **Shared Emotional Connection** | **4** |
| Definition:   * A shared emotional connection is based, in part, on a shared history. It is not necessary that group members have participated in the history in order to share it, but they must identify with it   or   * A shared emotional connection is based, in part, on a shared history and includes interactions of members in shared events and the specific attributes of events   Description:  One mark for any of the following, max. 3 marks   * shared emotional connection is the definitive element for true community * contact hypothesis: The more people interact, the more likely they are to become close * quality of the interaction: the more positive the experience and the relationships, the greater the bond. * quality of the interaction - success creates cohesion * closure to events - if the interaction is ambiguous and the community’s tasks are left unresolved, group cohesiveness will be inhibited * shared valent event hypothesis: the more important the shared event is to those involved, the greater the community bond. * Investment - contributes more than just boundary maintenance (may also mention cognitive dissonance) * investment determines the importance to the member of the community’s history and current status.(Note to markers: to receive a mark, candidates must show that this is not just a repeat of ‘personal investment’ as described in terms of Membership) * effect of honour and humiliation on community members: Reward or humiliation in the presence of community has a significant impact on attractiveness or adverseness of the community to the person * spiritual bond: present to a degree in all communities * spiritual bond: most difficult to describe * spiritual bond: connection to a belief system that may be religious or quasi-religious. Not based purely on locality. | 1  1-3 |
| **Application of McMillan and Chavis to the scenario** | **4** |
| One mark for identifying and describing a specific example of at least one feature of membership, one mark extra for discussing in detail  One mark for identifying and describing a specific example of at least one feature of shared emotional connection, one mark extra for discussing in detail  Applications to the scenario may include but are not limited to (response may be in terms of community or individual):  Membership: use of local dialect/version of language that is not easily understood by others, regular community meetings where members speak freely (emotionally safe to do so), identifying themselves as ‘Aramulan’, being part of the community to enable them to contribute at meetings, members share expectations such as they will resolve problems together in the community meetings, shared expectation that they will attend local school and work/volunteer to support the community, members participate in cultural celebrations (Jimbar)  Shared emotional connection: as well as living close together, the community has regular meetings/ close contact, meetings successfully resolve issues likely to increase cohesion/closer bonds, many families have lived in the community for generations, participating in the successful rescue increases cohesion, event is successfully resolved (closure), saving the people is extremely important to the community so likely to increase bond, reward for successful rescue based on cooperation (international and local) likely increase attractiveness of the community, community successful in attracting tourists, shared investment in the rescue operation contributes to shared history | 1-2  1-2 |
| **Event characteristics contributing to stress on communities and individuals** | **3** |
| Predictability: the extent to which the community/individual is able to ascertain the likelihood of an event occurring. (1)  Controllability: the extent to which the community/individual is able to control the impact/ effects/aftermath of an event. (1)  Experience of threat or loss: the extent to which threat or loss is perceived or actually experienced. (1) |  |
| **Application of event characteristics to the scenario** | **3** |
| One mark for discussing each factor.  Applications to the scenario may include but are not limited to (response may be in terms of community or individual):  Predictability: some level of predictability due to dangerous terrain and forecast weather (seasonal), local children being lost not predictable  Controllability: community has no control over the weather, medicine dependent children control their health but this is removed in this situation, the community cannot conduct the rescue without help, community is familiar with treacherous conditions so are able to recognise their limitations and act accordingly  Experience of threat or loss: there is a significant threat to the survival of some or all of the children especially the medicine-dependent individuals. | 1-3 |
| **Resilience and post-traumatic growth** | **4** |
| Define resilience:   * The capacity to act positively in the face of difficult or traumatic circumstances | 1 |
| Any three of the following:   * Faith system/religion/philosophy * Large support network * Sense of community * Positive re-appraisal of situation * Wide comfort zone * Sense of humour * Optimism * Striving to grow as a person   Accept relevant responses | 1-3 |
| **Quality of extended response** | **3** |
| A well-structured response with consistent use of appropriate psychological language and correct spelling, grammar and punctuation throughout | 3 |
| Satisfactory structure and everyday language with adequate spelling, grammar and punctuation | 2 |
| Poor Structure with colloquial language and/or poor English expression and/or many spelling/grammar/punctuation errors throughout | 1 |
| Answer is too brief or irrelevant | 0 |
| **TOTAL** | **/28** |