

2022 – 12 ATAR Psychology

Task Nine - Topic Test

5%

Social Psychology

Name:

Time: 55 minutes

Score:

Research Methods /18

Social Psych /22

Extended Response /18

Total /58

**RESEARCH METHODS SECTION (18 marks)**

Stanley Milgram conducted his first study into obedience in 1962. There were 40 male participants. The study was conducted using two participants at a time. The participants drew slips of paper to determine who would take the role of the “learner” and who would be the “teacher”. An experimenter was present the entire time.

The learner’s task was to memorise a list of word pairs. The teacher would then test the learner’s memory by reading out the first word in a pair; the learner would respond with the second word if he could remember it. The learner was attached to a complex machine and placed in a room, while the teacher was seated in another room in front of another machine displaying dials. The teacher was told to use the machine to deliver a painful electric shock to the learner each time he gave a wrong answer. The intensity of the shocks was increased each time a wrong answer was given. The teacher could hear but not see the learner; that is when the shock was delivered the teacher could hear the learner scream. If the teacher hesitated in giving shocks, the experimenter in the room with the teacher would encourage him to continue.

Although the teacher believed he was giving electric shocks to the learner when a mistake was made, no shocks were actually given. Milgram had told the learner of the intentions of the study so the learner would play along.

The experiment was designed to test how far the teacher would go in obeying orders when giving the shocks, even if they appeared to be harming the learner.

1. State whether this study scenario as written above is considered to be an experimental or non-experimental method. Justify your answer. (2 marks)

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2. Identify what was measured in this study. (1 mark)

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3. Imagine that you conducted this study but instead had 20 of the participants in a control group. This group of teachers were told the instructions at the start but had no experimenter in the room prompting them to continue. Write an operational hypothesis for this experiment (4 marks).

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4. Explain the findings of the experiment in terms of obedience. (3 marks)

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5. Outline two main factors that influenced the level of obedience in the experiment. (2 marks)

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7. Describe how Milgram used deception. (2 marks)

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8. Describe how Milgram should compensate for this breach in meeting ethical standards. (4 marks)

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**SHORT ANSWER SECTION (25 marks)**

1. Use the upside-down U curve to assist an explanation of social facilitation and social inhibition. (5 marks)

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1. Explain the relationship between group size and social loafing. Include a definition of social loafing and empirical research to support your answer. (4 marks)

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1. The holocaust was a horrific event in world history, in which Jewish people were systematically exterminated by the Nazi government. Explain how such an event could have occurred using one psychological principle and empirical evidence. (5 marks)

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*http://forums.shoryuken.com/discussion/40685/random-image-thread/p81*

5. Explain the cognitive dissonance in the advertisement above. (3 marks)

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a) Explain the difference between dispositional and situational attribution. (2 marks)

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b) Sandy is waiting in a long line at the supermarket checkout to pay for a box of chocolates.

Sandy is tapping her foot quickly and sighing loudly. An onlooker observes Sandy’s behaviour and thinks that she is a quick-tempered person.

1. Explain, using attribution theory, why the onlooker is likely to think this. (2 marks)

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(ii) Describe one alternative attribution for Sandy’s behaviour. (1 mark)

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**EXTENDED ANSWER SECTION**  **(18 marks)**

A school principal, who has growing concerns for student well-being and an increase in anti-social behaviour, asks you to present staff with a report identifying why student morale is low. Your presentation is to outline conformity, group polarisation and the influence it can have on behaviours. Be sure to refer to Asch’s study on conformity.

Conformity and Influence on Behaviour (8)

Group Polarisation and Influence on Behaviour (3)

Psychological Evidence – Asch’s conformity study (4)

Structure of Response (3)

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