

Quiz 8 Social Psychology — How do Social Environments Shape How We Behave?

Question 1

In which of the following examples does John experience cognitive dissonance?

- ☐ John believes that stealing is wrong regardless of circumstance. However, he believes that lying is generally wrong but should be allowed during special situations (e.g. when telling a white lie).
- ☒ John feels that lying is wrong regardless of the situation. One day, he lied to his course mates that he was not free for a meeting when he was lazy. He feels uncomfortable about the situation and is unsure what to do.
- ☐ John does not care about animal cruelty or sustainability. He consumes meat on the daily. One day, his sister tries to convince him to be a vegetarian but he remains unconvinced.
- ☐ John finds out that he flunked his test even though he believed that he would top the cohort.

ChatGPTs Explanation

"John feels that lying is wrong regardless of the situation. One day, he lied to his course mates that he was not free for a meeting when he was lazy. He feels uncomfortable about the situation and is unsure what to do."

In this scenario, John's belief that lying is always wrong conflicts with his behaviour of lying to his course mates. The discomfort or tension he feels afterward is a classic sign of cognitive dissonance, where his actions contradict his deeply held beliefs. This internal conflict leads to the feeling of discomfort.

In contrast:

- In the first example, John's beliefs are consistent with his behaviour, as he allows lying in special situations and has not encountered an internal conflict.
- In the third example, John remains unconvinced by his sister's argument, so there is no internal conflict between his beliefs and actions.
- In the fourth example, John's expectation about his test performance was incorrect, but this is more about a failed prediction or self-perception rather than a conflict between beliefs and actions.

Question 2

You are a high school teacher, and one of your students, Sarah, is often the target of bullying by a group of her classmates. You want to intervene and help Sarah, but you are not sure what approach to take. What factors can influence the bystander effect in this situation?

- ☐ The number of people witnessing the bullying.
- ☐ The social norms of the school regarding bullying
- ☐ The personality of the bystander.
- ☐ The presence of authority figures in the area.
- ☒ All of the options influence the bystander effect.

ChatGPTs Explanation

All of the options influence the bystander effect in this situation. Here's how each factor plays a role:

- The number of people witnessing the bullying: The more people who witness an incident, the more likely they are to assume that someone else will intervene. This diffusion of responsibility is a core component of the bystander effect.
- The social norms of the school regarding bullying: If the school culture discourages bullying and encourages intervention, students are more likely to step in. Conversely, if bullying is normalised or ignored, bystanders may feel less compelled to help.
- The personality of the bystander: Individuals with strong moral convictions, empathy, or assertiveness may be more likely to intervene, regardless of the bystander effect. Some people are naturally more likely to step in.
- The presence of authority figures in the area: If teachers or other authority figures are nearby, bystanders might feel more confident in intervening or reporting the bullying, as they perceive a lower risk to themselves.

Each of these factors can influence how bystanders react and whether they feel empowered or discouraged from intervening.

Question 3

Justin won a judo competition as his opponent was forced to withdraw from a last minute COVID infection. He believes his victory was fully deserved as he took care of his own health. He also thinks that his opponent deserved to lose, believing that his opponent's illness must have been due to poor health habits or a lack of social distancing. Justin is displaying an example of _____.

- ☒ A. Just-world belief
- ☐ B. Group-serving bias
- ☐ C. Self-serving bias
- ☐ D. Correspondence bias
- ☐ E. Cognitive dissonance

ChatGPTs Explanation

This belief refers to the assumption that people get what they deserve and deserve what they get. Justin assumes that his opponent's illness is a result of poor health habits or behaviour, implying that the outcome is fair and deserved. He attributes his own success to his good health and responsible actions, reinforcing the idea that the world is just and people's outcomes are directly tied to their actions.

Question 4

The four-level Nutri-Grade labels were rolled out in Singapore on December 30, 2022, with the aim of reducing sugar intake by aiding consumer decision-making. When consumers decide to purchase A-class (lowest sugar) beverages by just looking at the labels, they are using:

- ☐ Both of them
- ☒ The central route
- ☐ The peripheral route
- ☐ None of them

ChatGPTs Explanation

When consumers decide to purchase A-class (lowest sugar) beverages by just looking at the labels, they are using the peripheral route.

The peripheral route in persuasion involves making decisions based on surface-level cues, such as the Nutri-Grade label, rather than deeper processing of the information (e.g., detailed nutritional content). Since consumers are making their choice based on the label alone, rather than analysing the actual sugar content or health implications in depth, this falls under the peripheral route.

The central route, on the other hand, involves thoughtful consideration of the message content and would apply if consumers were analysing the full nutritional information and evaluating the product based on that.

Question 5

Tom is somewhat against the idea of pineapples on pizza. He goes onto an internet chatroom discussing why Pineapples on Pizza is bad. After spending a night chatting with the group in the chatroom, Tom's attitude towards Pineapples on Pizza would be _____, due to _____. Which of the following options fills in the blanks?

- ☐ Strongly for; Groupthink
- ☐ Strongly for; Deindividuation
- ☐ Somewhat against; Social loafing
- ☒ Strongly against; Group Polarisation
- ☐ None of the combinations are correct.

ChatGPTs Explanation

Group Polarisation occurs when individuals with similar views discuss a topic within a group, leading to the reinforcement and intensification of their original attitudes. In Tom's case, since he is already somewhat against pineapples on pizza and joins a chatroom where others likely share and discuss similar views, his attitude would become more extreme, making him strongly against pineapples on pizza.

None of the other combinations fit the scenario, as they describe different psychological phenomena.

Question 6

Wyatt works as a programmer at an internet company where his manager often requires him to work overtime to speed up project delivery. However, he barely receives overtime pay for the extra work. Despite this, he cannot quit as he needs the job to support his family. Driven by cognitive dissonance, which of the following is Wyatt NOT likely to do?

- ☒ To continue working at the company for another decade while strongly disagreeing with the lack of overtime pay.
- ☐ To disagree that overtime pay should be mandatory.
- ☐ To report an Employment Act violation to the Ministry of Manpower to stop unpaid overtime.
- ☐ To agree that unpaid overtime is normal and acceptable.

ChatGPTs Explanation

Cognitive dissonance occurs when a person's actions conflict with their beliefs, causing discomfort. In Wyatt's case, he is experiencing dissonance between his dislike of unpaid overtime and his continued work under those conditions. To reduce this dissonance, Wyatt would likely adjust his beliefs or actions, such as:

- Disagreeing that overtime pay should be mandatory (changing his attitude).
- Reporting a violation (changing his behaviour).
- Agreeing that unpaid overtime is normal and acceptable (justifying the situation).

However, continuing to work for many years while strongly disagreeing would maintain the dissonance, which is something people generally try to avoid. Thus, this option is the least likely.

Question 7

Which of the following scenarios is an example of conformity?

- A. A teenager purchases the latest popular fashion trends.
- B. An individual follows a strict religious doctrine set by the head of the organisation.
- C. A young man obeys his parent's request to clean a room.
- D. A young man completes and posts a social media challenge circulating around his friend group.

- ☐ A, B, C, D.
- ☐ A only.
- ☐ A, B, D only.
- ☒ A and D only.
- ☐ B and D only.

ChatGPTs Explanation

Conformity involves adjusting one's behaviour or attitudes to align with the norms or actions of a group. Here's how the examples fit:

A: "A teenager purchases the latest popular fashion trends" is an example of conformity, as the teenager is following the popular behaviour of their peers or society.

D: "A young man completes and posts a social media challenge circulating around his friend group" is also an example of conformity because he is engaging in a behaviour that aligns with what his friends are doing.

The other scenarios represent obedience or compliance rather than conformity:

B: "An individual follows a strict religious doctrine set by the head of the organisation" involves following an authority figure's instructions, which is obedience.

C: "A young man obeys his parent's request to clean a room" is also an example of obedience to an authority figure (his parent), not conformity.

Thus, A and D only are examples of conformity.

Question 8

Which of the following scenarios is an example of Fundamental Attribution Error (FAE)?

- A. Believing a coworker is always late because they are disorganised, while not considering they may be stuck in traffic.
- B. Recognizing that someone is late due to a traffic jam and not attributing it to their lack of punctuality.
- C. Assuming a friend is always cheerful could only be due to their naturally happy personality.
- D. Understanding that a classmate's exam performance was due to their hard work and preparation.

- ☐ A only.
- ☐ A and B only.
- ☒ A and C only.
- ☐ All of the scenarios are examples of FAE.
- ☐ None of the scenarios are examples of FAE.

ChatGPTs Explanation

The Fundamental Attribution Error (FAE) refers to the tendency to attribute someone's behaviour to their internal characteristics (e.g., personality traits) while underestimating external factors (e.g., situational influences).

A: "Believing a coworker is always late because they are disorganised, while not considering they may be stuck in traffic" is an example of FAE. It involves attributing the coworker's lateness to an internal characteristic (disorganisation) rather than considering external factors (traffic).

C: "Assuming a friend is always cheerful could only be due to their naturally happy personality" is another example of FAE, as it attributes their cheerfulness solely to their personality, ignoring potential situational factors.

B: "Recognizing that someone is late due to a traffic jam" is not an example of FAE because it correctly attributes behaviour to an external factor (traffic jam) rather than to an internal trait.

D: "Understanding that a classmate's exam performance was due to their hard work and preparation" also does not involve FAE because it acknowledges an external cause (effort and preparation).

Therefore, A and C are examples of the Fundamental Attribution Error.