

A. Keywords:

Obedience – Complying with the orders of an authority figure.

Authority Figure – somebody with more power and control than another.

Conformity – matching the behaviour and beliefs of others in order to fit in or because we do not know how to behave in an unusual situation.

Compliance – going along with the majority even though we privately do not agree.

Internalisation – going along with the group because we do not know how to behave in a situation we adopt the beliefs of the group.

Identification – temporarily adopting the behaviours of the group or role model.

Deindividuation – loss of personal self awareness as a responsibility of being in a group.

Blind obedience – when we comply with the orders of an authority figure without question; this tends to be associated with a negative outcome.

B. Obedience Obedience is complying with the request of an authority figure. Situational factors that affect obedience levels include proximity of the victim, proximity of the authority figure and legitimacy of the context discovered by Milgram on his shock study where he found that 65% of people would shock an unknown fellow participant to 450v. People who have an authoritarian personality are more likely to obey but if you have the support of others, familiar with the situation & high levels of education you can resist blind obedience.

C. Bystander behaviour why do some people help in situations and others do not? Situational factors include diffusion of responsibility where we are in a crowd & believe others are responsible. Pluralistic ignorance is where we look to others to guide our behaviour. In large crowds we may not even notice the event and the cost of helping may be too high. Personal factors include how competent we feel to help, the mood we are in and how similar we perceive ourselves to be to the person in need.

D: Expert modelling:

Define the term ‘obedience’ as it is used in psychology.

Use an example in your response. (2)

Obedience is following the direct order of a legitimate authority (1). For example, a police officer asks someone to pick up litter and they do it (1).

Subject: Psychology

Topic: Social Influence

Year: 10

E: Conformity is the behaviour that follows what the majority of the group are doing. Conformity helps us fit into a social group. Compliance is where we go along with a group even if we disagree with them; identification is where we temporarily adopt the behaviours of a group and internalisation is a permanent public & private change in views. We conform because of normative social influence (desire to be liked) and informational social influence (desire to be right). Factors that affect conformity are size of the majority, unanimity of majority and task difficulty as found by Asch. Those with external locus of control are more likely to conform.

F: Deindividuation is the process of losing our self identity when we are part of a group. When we lose our individual identity we become anonymous and blend into the group. As a result we tend to act differently and feel less responsible for our own actions. For example, members of a riot may feel less responsible for their actions and cause damage to property or harm to another person as a loss of their self awareness.

G. Wider thinking / further reading:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Psychology/2017/Teaching%20and%20learning%20materials/topic-guide-5-sleep-and-dreaming.pdf>