8.1 Gender Bias in Psychological Theory and Research: 10-minute Pack

AQA 7182 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

At least four questions require full sentences. Total time suggested 10 minutes.

1 Define β bias and its consequence for universality claims

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 Outline two limitations of gender-balanced sampling

(Total for Question 2 is 6 marks)

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Mark scheme · 8.1 Gender Bias in Psychological Theory and Research: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

defines β bias as minimising or ignoring differences between genders, treating findings from one gender as applicable to both oe	**B1**
states the problem: it can falsely support claims of universality when male-based findings do not generalise to females oe	**B1**

Answer: Beta bias downplays or ignores gender differences, treating results from one sex as if they apply to both; this can wrongly support claims that psychological findings are universal.

Question 2

identifies a limitation, e.g. balancing numbers does not address deeper issues like androcentric measures, gendered operationalisation or interaction effects oe	**M1**
explains that measures may be biased if they reflect male norms or ignore gender-relevant variables, so equal sampling alone will not fix conceptual bias oe	**A1**
identifies a second limitation, e.g. equal numbers may still mask within-gender variability or cultural differences oe	**M1**
explains that men and women are not homogenous groups and intersectional factors mean simple balancing can miss important differences oe	**A1**
may suggest that ethical, practical or cost constraints make balanced sampling difficult in some contexts oe	**B1**
concludes that methodological and conceptual changes beyond sampling are needed to reduce bias effectively oe	**B1**

Answer: Equal numbers of men and women does not solve conceptual bias: measures and operational definitions may still reflect male norms, and balancing samples does not capture within-gender diversity or intersectional factors. Methodological and theoretical changes are also needed.

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