8.1 Gender Bias in Psychological Theory and Research: Test Pack

AQA 7182 · about 15 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

At least four questions require full sentences. Total time suggested 15 minutes.

1 Define α bias in psychology

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 Identify bias in a female-only workplace empathy study

(Total for Question 2 is 3 marks)

3 Calculate percentage of male-only studies in a literature review

(Total for Question 3 is 3 marks)

4 Distinguish universality from bias in psychological explanations

(Total for Question 4 is 3 marks)

5 Outline gynocentrism with an example

(Total for Question 5 is 2 marks)

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Mark scheme · 8.1 Gender Bias in Psychological Theory and Research: Test Pack

Question 1

states that α bias exaggerates or overemphasises differences between men and women oe — **B1**

gives an example context, e.g. sociobiological explanations of relationship behaviour that present sex differences as large and inevitable oe — **B1**

Answer: Alpha bias exaggerates or overemphasises differences between men and women; for example, sociobiological accounts that claim large, innate sex differences in mate choice.

Question 2

identifies either gynocentrism or α bias as applicable (gynocentrism if female-centred norm, α bias if exaggerating difference) oe — **M1**

explains that using a female-only sample then claiming a universal innate sex difference is unjustified oe — **A1**

notes that sample limitation prevents concluding innate sex difference and the finding may reflect occupational selection rather than biology oe — **B1**

Answer: This shows gynocentrism and α bias: a female-only sample is treated as a basis for a universal claim, and the conclusion exaggerates a sex difference without testing men or considering occupational factors.

Question 3

correctly sets up the calculation: (60 / 200) x 100 oe — **M1**

computes the raw percentage 30% or 30.0% oe — **M1**

gives the final answer to 1 decimal place: 30.0% cao — **A1**

Answer: 30.0%. Working: (60 / 200) x 100 = 30.0%.

Question 4

states that universality means a finding or theory applies across genders, cultures and contexts oe — **M1**

states that bias means a finding or theory is distorted by the researcher's perspective or sample and does not apply universally oe — **M1**

explains with an example, e.g. a male-only sample leading to biased claims that are not truly universal oe — **A1**

Answer: Universality is when a theory or finding applies across genders and contexts; bias is when research methods or interpretation distort results so they do not generalise. For example, a male-only sample may produce a biased conclusion that is not universal.

Question 5

defines gynocentrism as female-centred research or interpretation where the female experience is treated as the norm oe — **B1**

gives an example, e.g. building a therapy model based only on female patients and assuming it fits men without testing oe — **B1**

Answer: Gynocentrism is female-centred research or interpretation that treats female experience as the norm; for example, developing a therapy model on female patients only and assuming it applies to men.

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