1.1 Milgram's Baseline Study Into Obedience: Procedure and Findings: Test Pack

AQA 7182 · about 15 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Milgram used a sample of male participants recruited for his 1963 baseline obedience study. State the sampling method Milgram used to recruit participants and give one reason why he used that method.

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

2 Outline the physical set up of the shock generator used in Milgram's baseline study, including the maximum voltage shown to participants and how voltages were labelled on the apparatus.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

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3 Explain briefly the issue of right to withdraw in Milgram's baseline study and how the experimenter's behaviour could affect a participant's ability to exercise that right.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

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4 Milgram's procedure is often praised for its control but criticised for other reasons. Explain two methodological strengths of Milgram's baseline study and one methodological limitation, giving three developed points that refer to the study's procedure or findings.

(Total for Question 4 is 6 marks)

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Mark scheme · 1.1 Milgram's Baseline Study Into Obedience: Procedure and Findings: Test Pack

Question 1

volunteer sampling via newspaper adverts and mailouts, often called self selected or volunteer sampling oe — **B1**

Answer: Volunteer sampling via newspaper adverts and direct approach to volunteers.

Question 2

a shock generator with switches labelled from 15 volts up to 450 volts oe — **M1**

labels increased in 15 volt increments and the highest switches were marked with warnings such as DANGER or XXX oe — **A1**

Answer: A shock generator displayed switches from 15 V to 450 V in 15 V steps, with the highest levels labelled with warnings such as DANGER or XXX.

Question 3

states that participants may have felt unable to withdraw because the experimenter used prods telling them they must continue oe — **M1**

explains that scripted prods and the perceived authority of the experimenter reduced the practical freedom to leave, undermining the right to withdraw oe — **A1**

Answer: Participants could feel unable to withdraw because the experimenter used prods such as "You must go on," and the experimenter's authority made it harder in practice to exercise the right to withdraw.

Question 4

states a methodological strength, e.g. high experimental control over variables such as the scripted prods, the fixed shock increments, and standardised procedure oe — **M1**

explains that such control increases internal validity because differences in obedience are less likely to be due to procedural inconsistencies oe — **A1**

provides a second strength point, e.g. the use of quantitative measures such as the percentage reaching 450 V allows clear, replicable measurement of obedience levels oe — **M1**

explains that having a clear numerical outcome aids comparison across samples and later variations of the experiment oe — **A1**

states a methodological limitation, e.g. demand characteristics or participant suspicion about the authenticity of shocks may have affected behaviour, as argued by Orne and Holland oe — **M1**

explains that if participants guessed the shocks were fake or the setup staged, this would reduce ecological validity and mean the measured obedience may not reflect real world actions oe — **A1**

Answer: Strengths: high experimental control with standardised prods and apparatus, improving internal validity, and a clear quantitative outcome (percentage to 450 V) that aids replication and comparison. Limitation: possible demand characteristics or suspicion about fake shocks could reduce ecological validity and mean behaviour may not mirror real world obedience.

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