1.2 Explanations for Obedience: Agentic State and Legitimacy of Authority: 10-minute Pack

AQA 7182 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 State one way in which legitimate authority can become 'destructive', leading to immoral orders being obeyed.

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

2 Outline the main finding of Kilham and Mann's 1974 replication of obedience research in Australia, and state briefly how it affects the legitimacy of authority explanation.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

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3 Hofling et al.'s study took place on real hospital wards, and the nurses did not know they were taking part in a study. Explain one strength of using this method to investigate obedience.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

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4 Amira, a junior analyst, is told by the managing director to change some figures in a report. Amira thinks this is wrong. Her hands shake as she types, but she thinks: 'If I say no there will be an awkward argument and my boss will think I am disloyal, so it is easier to carry on.' Identify one binding factor and one sign of moral strain in this scenario, and explain how the binding factor keeps Amira obeying.

(Total for Question 4 is 3 marks)

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Mark scheme · 1.2 Explanations for Obedience: Agentic State and Legitimacy of Authority: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

states that authority can be destructive when a legitimate figure uses their power to order harmful or immoral acts, and followers obey because of that perceived legitimacy oe **B1**

Answer: Legitimate authority becomes destructive when an authority figure uses their recognised power to order harmful or immoral acts, and people obey because they accept the figure's right to command.

Question 2

states Kilham and Mann found lower levels of obedience to authority than Milgram did in his original US study oe **M1**

explains implication: suggests legitimacy of authority effects may vary by culture or social context oe **A1**

Answer: Kilham and Mann found lower obedience levels in their Australian replication than reported in Milgram's US work. This suggests that legitimacy of authority may not produce the same levels of obedience in all cultures and that social context can affect how authority is perceived.

Question 3

identifies a strength, e.g. the setting was real and the nurses did not know they were being studied, so their behaviour was natural oe **M1**

explains the benefit, e.g. this gives high ecological validity and reduces demand characteristics, so the findings are more likely to generalise to real-world obedience oe **A1**

Answer: Because the nurses were on their real wards and did not know about the study, they behaved naturally, so the study has high ecological validity and the findings are more likely to apply to real obedience.

Question 4

identifies a binding factor from the scenario, e.g. the awkwardness of arguing or being seen as disloyal (the cost of disobeying) oe **B1**

identifies a sign of moral strain from the scenario, e.g. her hands shaking, or her belief that the act is wrong oe **B1**

explains how the binding factor keeps her in the agentic state, e.g. it makes refusing seem more uncomfortable than obeying, so she continues oe **B1**

Answer: Binding factor: she wants to avoid an awkward argument and being seen as disloyal, so refusing feels costly. Sign of moral strain: her hands shake while she types (she believes the act is wrong). The binding factor keeps her obeying because disobeying feels more uncomfortable than carrying on.

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