1.4 The Authoritarian Personality as a Dispositional Explanation for Obedience: Test Pack

AQA 7182 · about 15 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Define the Authoritarian Personality and give one key characteristic.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 Suggest one improvement to the F-scale measurement and explain the benefit.

(Total for Question 2 is 3 marks)

3 List two F-scale traits associated with the Authoritarian Personality.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

4 Outline Elms and Milgram's interview finding and its support for the Authoritarian Personality account.

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

Mark scheme · 1.4 The Authoritarian Personality as a Dispositional Explanation for Obedience: Test Pack

Question 1

definition: a personality type proposed to be especially obedient and submissive to authority, characterised by rigid adherence to conventional values oe **B1**

identifies one key characteristic, e.g. conventionalism, hostility towards lower-status groups, or rigid black-and-white thinking oe **B1**

Answer: A personality type thought to be highly obedient and submissive to authority, often showing rigid conventional values; one key characteristic is rigid, black-and-white thinking.

Question 2

suggests a practical improvement, e.g. include balanced items that do not systematically favour one political orientation, add reverse-scored items, or combine questionnaire data with behavioural measures oe **M1**

explains how this reduces bias: reverse-scored and balanced items reduce acquiescence and political-loading so scores reflect personality rather than political opinion oe **A1**

explains benefit: increases construct validity and confidence that high scores indicate authoritarian personality traits rather than simple political conservatism oe **A1**

Answer: Improve the F-scale by adding balanced and reverse-scored items and combining questionnaire scores with behavioural tasks; this reduces political loading and response bias, increasing construct validity so high scores better reflect authoritarian traits rather than mere political beliefs.

Question 3

one trait named, e.g. conventional values oe **B1**

second trait named, e.g. authoritarian submission or hostility towards lower-status groups or rigid thinking oe **B1**

Answer: Examples: conventional values and hostility towards those seen as lower status.

Question 4

outlines finding: Elms and Milgram reported that many highly obedient participants scored higher on measures of authoritarianism and reported distant or strict parental relationships in childhood oe **M1**

states that obedient participants also tended to express strong respect for authority figures and conventional values oe **M1**

explains support: this pattern is consistent with Adorno's claim that authoritarian traits, linked to childhood experiences, make individuals more likely to obey authority oe **A1**

adds caveat: but interviews are correlational and cannot prove causation, so the link is suggestive rather than definitive oe **A1**

Answer: Elms and Milgram found that many obedient participants scored higher on authoritarian measures and reported strict or distant childhood parenting, and they expressed strong respect for authority; this is consistent with Adorno's idea that childhood experiences shape authoritarian traits that increase obedience, though the evidence is correlational.

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk