

Obedience – Questions by Topic

Q1.

Outline what is meant by 'agentic state' as an explanation for obedience.

(Total 2 marks)

Q2.

(a) Milgram's experiments into obedience can be criticised as being unethical. Describe **two** ethical issues that can be illustrated by Milgram's research.

(4)

(b) Choose **one** of the ethical issues identified in your answer to (a) and explain a way of dealing with it.

(2)

(Total 6 marks)

Q3.

In a hospital, you are very likely to obey a nurse. However, if you meet her outside the hospital, for example in a shop, you are much less likely to obey. Using your knowledge of how people resist pressures to obey, explain why you are less likely to obey the nurse outside the hospital.

(Total 4 marks)

Q4.

The following results are percentages of participants who gave the maximum shock, in variations of Milgram's experiment into obedience to authority.

Condition	% Participants obeying
Experimenter and two obedient confederates are in the same room as the participant.	92.5%
Experimenter is in the same room as the participant.	65%
Experimenter is in a different room from the participant.	20.5%
Experimenter and two disobedient confederates are in the same room as the participant.	10%

What do these results suggest about the power of the confederates in variations of Milgram's study?

(Total 4 marks)

Q5.

Some research into obedience has been carried out in laboratories. Other studies into obedience have been carried out in the real world, including field experiments and observations.

- (a) Outline **one** advantage of conducting obedience research outside a laboratory setting.
- (b) Outline **one** limitation of conducting obedience research outside a laboratory setting.

(Total 4 marks)

Q6.

Discuss the authoritarian personality as an explanation for obedience.

(Total 8 marks)

Q7.

Outline and evaluate **one or more** explanations of why people obey.

(Total 12 marks)

Q8.

Outline research into the effect of situational variables on obedience and discuss what this tells us about why people obey.

(Total 12 marks)

Q9.

Discuss **at least two** explanations for defiance of authority. Refer to evidence in your answer.

(Total 16 marks)