

Conformity – Questions by Topic

Q1.

Briefly outline and evaluate normative social influence as an explanation for conformity.

(Total 4 marks)

Q2.

Many people have criticised Zimbardo's prison study.

Identify and briefly discuss **two** reasons why people have criticised Zimbardo's prison study.

(Total 6 marks)

Q3.

Identify **three** variables affecting conformity and outline how **each** of these was investigated in Asch's experiment.

(Total 6 marks)

Q4.

Studies of conformity are sometimes criticised for being unethical. Briefly explain **two** ways in which psychologists might address ethical issues in social influence research.

(Total 4 marks)

Q5.

Outline the procedures **and** findings of Zimbardo's research into conformity to social roles.

(Total 4 marks)

Q6.

Explain what is meant by internalisation.

(Total 3 marks)

Q7.

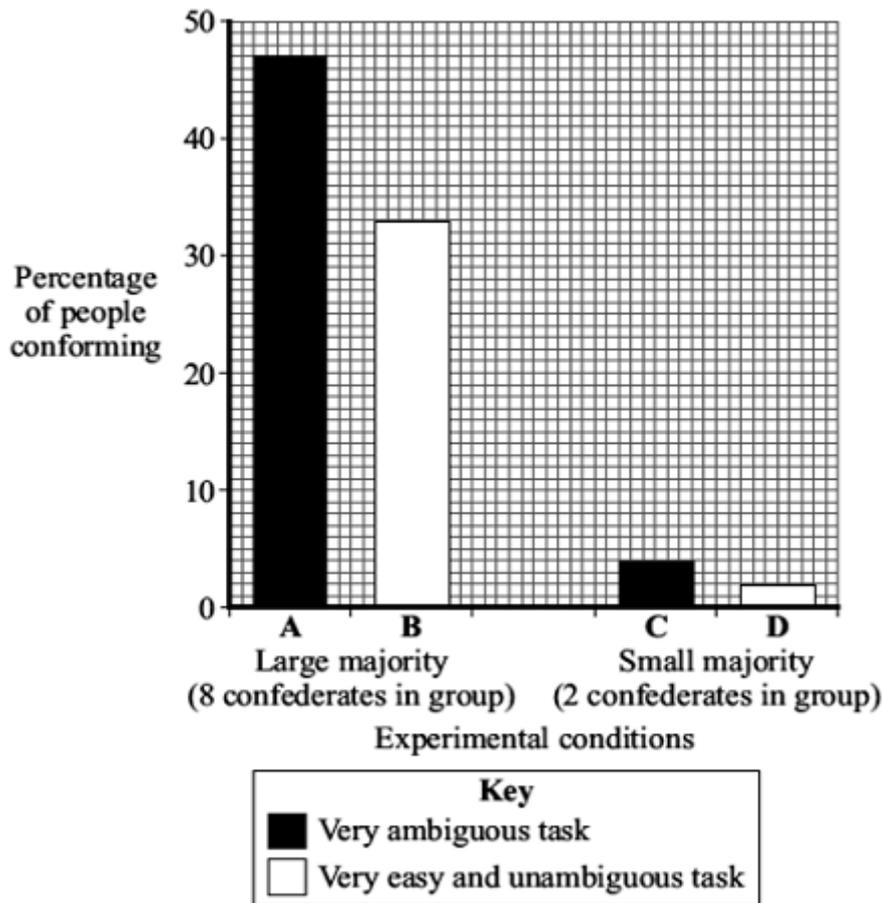
Explain what is meant by compliance.

(Total 3 marks)

Q8.

In an experiment into conformity, an experimenter varied both the number of confederates (stooges) and the ambiguity of the task. The bar chart below shows the findings.

Percentages of conformity for different tasks and size of majority



What does the bar chart show about conformity?

(Total 4 marks)

Q9.

Jan and Norah have just finished their first year at university where they lived in a house with six other students. All the other students were very health conscious and ate only organic food. Jan had listened to their point of view and now she also eats only organic food. Norah was happy to eat organic food while in the house, but when she went home for the holidays she ate whatever her mother cooked. Both girls conformed, but for different reasons.

Explain which type of conformity **each** girl was showing.

(Total 4 marks)

Q10.

(a) What is meant by *normative social influence*?

(2)

(b) Andrea has recently started a new job and on her first day at work she noticed that all her colleagues were much more smartly dressed than she was.

Explain the likely effect of normative social influence on Andrea's behaviour.

(2)

(Total 4 marks)

Q11.

Read the item and then answer the question that follows.

A small group of environmentally-aware sixth form students are campaigning for their school to become 'paper-free' for the next six months. Recently, they had a meeting with a group of teachers who represent the teaching staff. The teachers told the students that the school could become 'paper-free' if the group of students could convince the rest of the student body it was a good idea.

Use your knowledge of conformity **and** minority influence to explain the factors that will determine how successful the small group of students will be.

(Total 7 marks)

Q12.

Describe **and** evaluate the procedure of Zimbardo's research into social roles.

(Total 8 marks)

Q13.

Discuss research into conformity.

(Total 8 marks)

Q14.

Steph and Jeff are student teachers who recently joined other members of staff on a one-day strike. When asked why they decided to do so, Steph replied, 'I never thought I would strike but I listened to the other teachers' arguments and now I have become quite passionate about it'.

Jeff's explanation was different: 'To be honest, everyone else seemed to be striking and I didn't want to be the only one who wasn't'.

Discuss explanations for conformity. Refer to Steph and Jeff as part of your discussion.

(Total 16 marks)