

# Unit 2 Social Influence Knowledge Organiser

Key terms		Conformity – effect of	real or unseen group pressure
Key Term	Definition	Asch's study (key study 7)	Factors affecting conformity -
Conformity	A form of social influence. It occurs when a person's behaviour or thinking changes as a result of group pressure. The pressure can be real or imagined and can come from one person or a group.	Aim – to investigate group pressure in a unambiguous situation  Method: 123 American men. Two card: the standard line and	Social factors Group size – 2 confederates = 13.6% conformity, 3 confederates = 31.8%
Dispositional	Explanations of behaviour in terms of an individual's personality, character or	three comparison lines.	conformity, more than three made little difference
factors	temperament.	12 critical trials where confederates gave the wrong answer.	Evaluation – depends on task as when there is no obvious answer then
Locus of control	The sense we have about what directs events in our lives. Internals believe they are	Results: On critical trials the participant gave the wrong answer 1/3 of the time. 25% never gave a wrong answer.	no conformity until group is greater than 8 people
	responsible, externals believe it is a matter of luck.	Conclusion: People are influenced by group pressure. Though	Anonymity – writing an answer down is anonymous and lowers
Social factors	Explanations in terms of the social world around you. Your 'social world' is the	many can resist.	conformity
	groups of people you identify with, friends, family school, football team etc.		Evaluation: strangers versus friends – if participants are friends or
Obedience	A type of social influence that causes a person to act in response to a direct order		opinion is anonymous then conformity is higher
	from a figure with perceived authority.		
Agency theory	Explains obedience in terms of whether an individual is making their own free		<b>Task difficulty</b> – if comparison lines are more similar to the standard lines
	choice or acting as an agent for an authority figure.		this makes the task harder so conformity increases  Evaluation — people with more expertise are less affected by task difficulty
Agentic state	A mental state where we feel no responsibility for our behaviour because we		
	believe ourselves to be acting for an authority figure.		
Autonomous	Being aware of the consequences of one's own actions and therefore taking		Dispositional factors
state	voluntary control of one's behaviour.		Personality – the higher your internal locus of control, the less likely you
Authority	The power or right to give orders and expect obedience.	A B C	are to conform.
Culture	The beliefs and expectations that surround us. We are not conscious of living in a		Evaluation – familiarity of the situation – control is less important in
	culture, yet it influences us powerfully.		familiar situations (Rotter)
Authoritarian	A person who is especially susceptible to obeying people in authority.	Evaluation	<b>Expertise</b> – more knowledgeable, you conform less. Lucas found maths
personality		Child of the times – only reflective of conformity in 1950s	experts less likely to conform to other's answers on maths problems
Cognitive style	Cognition refers to thinking so 'cognitive style' refers to the way a person thinks	America, much less conformity in UK (Perrin and Spencer found	Evaluation – no single factor – maths experts may conform to a group of
	about the world.	only 1 conforming response in 396 trials).	strangers in order to be liked
Displace or	A form of ego defence mechanism where an individual unconsciously redirects a		
displacement	threatening emotion from the person or thing that has caused it onto a third party.	An artificial task – task (judging lines) was trivial and situation	
Bystander	The observation that the presence of others (bystanders) reduces the likelihood	involved strangers so doesn't reflect everyday situations.	
behaviour	that help will be offered in an emergency situation.	Cultural difference: results can't be generalised to collectivist	
Prosocial	Behaviour which is beneficial to other people, and may not necessarily benefit the	cultures where rates are higher.	
behaviour	helper.	- I salvar as union a rates and migricin	
Anti-social	Behaviour which is harmful to other people, includes behaving aggressively as well		
behaviour	as other behaviour which may distress others.		
Collective behaviour	Collective behaviour is the actions that happen when people are part of a group/what people do when they are part of a group		
Crowd	A large but temporary gathering of people with a common focus.		
Deindividuation	A psychological state in which you lose your personal identity and take on the	1	
Demarkadation	group identity of those around them.		
Social loafing	Individuals make a reduced effort when they are part of a group than when they		
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# **Unit 2 Social Influence Knowledge Organiser**

# Obedience – response to a direct order from an authority figure

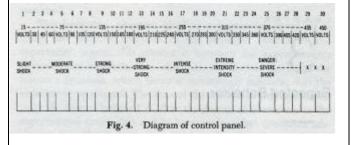
# Milgram's study

**Aim** – to investigate if Germans are different in terms of obedience

**Method:** 40 male volunteers. 'Teacher' instructed by experimenter to give a shock if 'learner' answered a question incorrectly

**Results:** No participant stopped below 300 volts. 65% shocked to 450 volts. Extreme tension shown e.g. three had seizures.

**Conclusion:** Obedience related to social factors not disposition e.g. – location and novel situation



#### **Evaluation**

**Lacked realism** – participants may not have believed the shocks were real, hence they played along and continue to increase the voltage given.

**Supported by other research** – Sheridan and King found that 100% of females followed orders to give a fatal shock to a puppy.

**Ethical issues** – participants distress, caused psychological harm. Such research brings psychology into disrepute.

# Factors affecting obedience

## Social factors - Milgram's agency theory

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Agentic state – follow orders with no responsibility Autonomous – free choice

#### Authority -

Agentic shift – move from making own free choices to following orders, occurs when someone is in authority

## Culture - the social hierarchy

Some people have more authority than others. Hierarchy depends on society and socialisation.

#### **Proximity**

Participants less obedient in Milgram's study when they were in the same room as the learner, increasing the 'moral strain'

#### **Evaluation** -

**Research support** – Blass and Schmidt showed students a film of Milgram's study and they blamed the experimenter rather than the participants

**Doesn't explain all findings** – can't explain why there isn't 100% obedience in Milgram's study

**Obedience alibi** – agency theory offers an excuse for destructive behaviour, potentially dangerous

# <u>Dispositional factors – Adorno's theory of the authoritarian</u> <u>personality</u>

**The authoritarian personality** – some people have a strong respect for authority and look down on people of lower status. This is made up of -

Cognitive style – rigid stereotypes and don't like change
Originates in childhood – strict parents who only show love if
behaviour is correct, these values are internalised
Scapegoating – hostility felt towards parents for being critical is

#### Evaluation -

**Lack of support** – authoritarian personality is based on the F scale which has response bias

put onto people who are socially inferior

**Results are correlational** – can't say authoritarian personality causes greater obedience

**Social and dispositional** – Germans were obedient but did not all have the same upbringing. Social factors are involved.

## Piliavin's study (key study 8)

Aim – to investigate if characteristics of a victim affect help given in an emergency

Method: male confederate collapsed on subway. 103 trials, victim apparently drunk or disabled (had a cane)

**Results:** disabled victim given help on 95% of trials compared to 50% helped when drunk. Help was as likely in crowded and empty carriages

Prosocial – behaviour which is beneficial to other people, and may not necessarily benefit the helper

**Conclusion:** characteristics of a victim affects help given. Number of onlookers does not affect help in natural setting.

### **Evaluation**

**High realism** – participants didn't know their behaviour was being studies, so acted more naturally

**Urban sample** – participants from the city so may be use to emergencies

Qualitative data – observers noted remarks from passengers giving deeper insights into why they helped

### **Social factors**

**Presence of others** – the more people present the less likely someone will help. Latane and Darley found that 85% on own helped person with seizure but only 31% in a group of four.

Evaluation -

Depends on situation – in serious emergencies response correlated to severity of situation (Faul et al).

**Cost of helping** – includes danger to self or embarrassment. Also costs of not helping e.g. guilt or blame Evaluation –

Interpretation of a situation – if it is a married couple arguing only 19% intervened compared with 85% intervening if the attacked was a stranger

#### **Dispositional factors**

Similarity to victim - help is more likely if the victim is similar to self e.g. Man Utd fans heling someone wearing a Man Utd shirt Evaluation –

High costs – high costs of ambiguous situation means help isn't forthcoming

<u>Expertise</u> – people with specialist skills more likely to help in emergencies, eg nurses helping a workman Evaluation –

Effects on the quality of help – Red cross trained were no more likely to give help than untrained people, but gave higher quality help



# **Unit 2 Social Influence Knowledge Organiser**

Crowd and collective behaviour – a large gathering of people who may behave differently from when on their own					
Deindividuation – losing your sense of identity and taking on that of theA case study of crowd and collective behaviourSocial factor	Social factors				
group around you Factor	Evaluation				
Crowds experience deindividuation due to reduced sense of responsibility Reicher study – Deindividuation – group norms Cro	owding – being packed tightly				
and antisocial behaviour.  Aim – to investigate crowd behaviour to see if it was ruly or unruly determine crowd behaviour to get if it was ruly or unruly determine crowd behaviour	gether is unpleasant and may				
Method – studied newspapers and TV reports. Interviewed 20 people, 6 in exp	plain antisocial behaviour				
Zimbardo's study – depth					
Aim – To study the effects of loss of individual identity  Results – riot triggered by police raiding café which community felt was  Social loafing – when working in a Dep	epends on task – on creative				
Method: Female participants told to deliver fake electric shocks.  unjust. Crowd threw bricks, burnt police cars but calmed when police left.  group people put in less effort as task	sks, eg brainstorming, people				
Individuated group wore normal clothes. Deindividuated group wore a <b>Conclusion</b> – shows damage was rule-driven and targeted at police, you can't identify individual effort ind	dividually produce more when in				
large coat with hood. reflecting the social attitude of the area	oups				
Results: Deindividuated more likely to shock person and held down shock					
button twice as long <b>Culture</b> – Earley found Chinese <b>Over</b>	vergeneralised – people belong to				
Conclusion: this shows being anonymous increases aggression  Supported by research – football hooligans' violence doesn't escalate people (collectivist culture) put in mo	ore than one culture so hard to				
beyond a certain point the same effort even if amount ma	ake predictions				
Issues with methodology – study is based on eyewitness testimony so data cannot be identified. Not true of					
Evaluation - may be biased Americans (individualist)					
Not always antisocial – Prosocial group norm (nurses) leads to less Real-world application – increasing police presence doesn't always lead to					
antisocial behaviour than antisocial group norm (KKK)  a decrease in violence  Dispositional fa	Dispositional factors				
Real-world application – manage sporting crowds using video cameras to  Factor	Evaluation				
	histleblowing – personality made				
Crowding – feeling packed together creates aggression too enables individuals to be less no	difference				
influenced by crowd behaviour					
	al examples – Sophie Scholl				
wrong helps resist pressure from sac	crificed her life rather than				

group norms

following group behaviour