Diploma Programme
Programme du diplôme
Programa del Diploma

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Psychology
Higher level
Paper 3

Wednesday 11 November 2020 (morning)

1 hour

Instructions to candidates

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Read the passage carefully and then answer all the questions.
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is **[24 marks]**.

8820 – 5705

3 pages

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The stimulus material below is based on a study on the effect of social exclusion on prosocial behaviour. Prosocial behaviour is defined as behaviour that is performed to benefit others, rather than oneself.

A person's feeling of not being part of a social group may affect that person's behaviour. The hypothesis of this study was that perception of social exclusion would decrease prosocial behaviour.

The convenience sample consisted of psychology university students (N = 26) who signed up for the study to gain course credit. There was an equal number of males and females from multiple ethnic backgrounds.

The participants signed consent forms, but the researchers did not inform participants about the true purpose of the study until afterwards. No participant was named in the research report.

Individually, participants completed a personality test and were paid two dollars, after which they received a randomly assigned personality type description. These allocated them to either condition 1 (social exclusion) or condition 2 (social inclusion). Participants in condition 1 received negative feedback on the personality test such as "You are the type that might end up alone later in life". Participants in condition 2 received positive feedback such as "You are the type that might have many friends throughout life".

The researcher then left the room for two minutes, but before leaving she pointed to a box with a sign reading "Student Emergency Fund" and said to the participant that they could donate a small amount of the two dollars if they wanted but it was up to them. After two minutes the researcher returned and debriefed each participant.

The measure of prosocial behaviour in this study was defined as whether the participants gave a donation or not. Only five participants in condition 1 donated, compared to all participants in condition 2.

The researchers concluded that the perception of future social exclusion resulted in temporarily negative emotions that prevented some participants in condition 1 from acting in a prosocial manner.

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Answer **all** of the following three questions, referring to the stimulus material in your answers. Marks will be awarded for demonstration of knowledge and understanding of research methodology.

1. (a) Identify the research method used and outline **two** characteristics of the method. [3]

(b) Describe the sampling method used in the study. [3]

(c) Suggest **one** alternative **or one** additional research method that could be used to investigate the aim of the original study, giving **one** reason for your choice. [3]

2. Describe the ethical considerations that were applied in the study and explain if further ethical considerations could be applied. [6]

3. Discuss the possibility of generalizing the findings of the study. [9]

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