

## 19-20 Psychology Summer Transition Tasks.

Please use the Social Psychology PDF and your own research to study and analyse the Milgram Experiment.

**Task 1** Read and make detailed notes on the Milgram Experiment (p.4-12 of Social Psychology PDF).

Then complete the exercise 1 below.

### **Exercise 1**

1. If you had volunteered to take part in this study, how would you feel at this stage about what you had volunteered to do (remember you are 'blind' to the deception)?
2. If you felt uneasy about the experiment would you have felt able to take your money and go? Why or why not?
3. The participants were told the supposed purpose of the experiment. What was the real purpose of the experiment?
4. The participants were all volunteers. In what way(s) do you think that people who volunteer are different from people who don't answer advertisements?
5. In what other ways was this sample biased? (Suggest at least two ways.)

**Task 2** – make sure your answers to exercise 2 are in full sentences.

### **Exercise 2**

1. Identify the independent variable (IV) and dependent variable (DV) in this experiment.
2. Why do you think it was important to have a standardised set of responses for the experimenter?
3. Do you think that this study has ecological validity? In other words, do you think the participants would behave as they would in 'real life' with an authority figure, and do you feel that the results can be applied to real life? Why or why not?
4. When we consider ethics, it is suggested that we should ask whether the ends justify the means. Briefly outline the means and ends in this experiment.
5. Before you look at the results, write down what you think they will be. What percentage of people do you think continued beyond 315 volts?

**Task 3** – Make sure you check the main findings of Milgram before you do exercise 3.

### **Exercise 3**

1. What do both of the key findings tell us about obedience? [Think about the original research questions.]
2. Which of the findings do you find are surprising, and why?
3. In what way is it important that the results were so unanticipated?
4. Why do you think that it was important for the participants to be debriefed?
5. What features of this experiment made it more likely that participants would behave more obediently than they would normally? (Note: in a sense these features are demand characteristics.)
6. Milgram says that obedience is 'an indispensable feature of social life'. Do you agree? Why or why not?