



Psych

Discovering Psychology – Video 19 – Power of the Situation Annenberg Learner [2001]

1. In 1939, Kurt Lewin looked at the power of leaders. Each group of boys had a different leader: autocratic, laissez faire, and democratic. Which group leader led to the boys behaving with the highest motivation and originality?
2. Which was more important for social psychologist Kurt Lewin?
 - a) leadership style
 - b) personality

Central theme: Social situation/environment significantly affects behavior

CONFORMITY

3. Solomon Asch studied conformity with his line study. His key question looked at comparing a line on the right with one on the left. What percentage agreed incorrectly at least once?

OBEDIENCE TO AUTHORITY

4. In 1961, Stanley Milgram studied obedience. He wondered if anyone has the capacity for evil. What did the subjects think they were studying?
 - a. memory
 - b. conformity
 - c. obedience
 - d. none of these
5. In Milgram's experiment, 40 experts estimated what about the performance of the subjects:
 - a. most would go to 450 volts
 - b. half of the subjects would go to 450 volts
 - c. most would not go beyond 150 volts.
6. In fact, what fraction of the Milgram experiment subjects went to 450 volts?
 - a. 25%
 - b. 66%
 - c. 50%

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7. Dr. Zimbardo says blind obedience is brought out by:
 - a. innate desires
 - b. fascist mentality
 - c. situational forces

8. The fundamental attribution error occurs when underestimating the influence of the situation on behavior. According to Zimbardo, why do we make it?
 - a. our culture emphasizes group cooperation
 - b. our culture emphasizes individual accomplishments
 - c. we won't admit we are influenced by situational forces
 - d. both b and c

ROLE PLAY

9. In Zimbardo's prisoner study, how could good people do terrible things?
 - a. innate evil is the major cause
 - b. the situation brought out the behavior

10. Which of the following statements about ethical questions surrounding the prisoner study is FALSE?
 - a. independent review boards have been set up to approve experiments
 - b. emotional and physical costs are weighed against the benefits by review boards
 - c. the prisoner study could still be performed today

Social facilitation studied by Tom Moriarty; Beach theft experiment

11. What happens when the person asks another individual to watch their belongings on the beach?
 - a. the other person feels obligated and watches; a human bond was formed
 - b. they ignore the request, deindividuation due to the crowd on the beach

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Positive situational power studied by Ellen Langer

12. In the fighter pilot study. $\frac{1}{2}$ the subjects were on a fully operational simulator. $\frac{1}{2}$ were not on the simulator. What happened as a result?
- there were no differences in the two groups in terms of their vision score improving
 - the situation was powerful enough to have improved the vision scores of the first group
13. According to Festinger, how do we deal with cognitive dissonance?
- change how we think
 - change our behavior
 - get others to change how they think about us
 - all of these
14. In the 1950s Festinger conducted a classic experiment about a boring task. What were the results?
- The \$1 subjects convinced themselves the project was fun to justify their participation.
 - The \$20 felt no dissonance because they had no discomfort in lying.
 - The \$1 dollar man knows it's dull, but he doesn't have sufficient justification for saying it wasn't. He reduces his dissonance by changing his opinion of the task.
 - All of these are correct