

Exercise walk-through

2.4

Social Psychology

GAC Psychology

You must be able to

- distinguish conformity from obedience
- distinguish disposition from situation attributions
- identify the tendency to explain others differently from oneself

1

The method

Method — Explain the action carefully

Conformity 从众 changes behaviour to match a group. **Obedience** 服从 follows an instruction from an authority.

An **attribution** 归因 explains behaviour through a person's disposition or their situation. People often call another person rude but excuse their own shortness because of a difficult day.

2

Practice

Practice 2.1 ■ 1 mark

Define conformity.

Solution 2.1

Worked steps

- Changing behaviour to match a group. **B1**

Practice 2.2 ■ 1 mark

State whether following a teacher's direct instruction is conformity or obedience.

Solution 2.2

Method: Explain the action carefully — p.4

Worked steps

- Obedience. **B1**

Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

Explain the difference between a disposition and situation attribution.

Solution 2.3

Method: Explain the action carefully — p.4

Worked steps

- A disposition attribution explains behaviour through personal qualities. **B1**
- A situation attribution explains it through circumstances. **A1**

3

Exam-style

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 4 marks

Explain why a student might follow a group answer they privately believe is wrong.

Solution 3.1

Worked steps

- The student may want to match the group. (B1)
- They may fear being different or assume the group knows better. (A1)
- Their public response changes despite private disagreement. (A1)
- This is conformity rather than obedience to authority. (B1)

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 4 marks

Explain why someone may call a stranger impatient but explain their own impatience by a long queue.

Solution 3.2

Method: Explain the action carefully — p.4

Worked steps

- The stranger's behaviour is explained as an impatient disposition. **B1**
- The person's own behaviour is explained by the difficult situation. **A1**
- This uses different explanations for similar behaviour. **A1**
- It shows a bias toward disposition for others and situation for oneself. **B1**