

Tutorial Letter 201/2/2017

Social Psychology

PYC3701

Semester 2

Department of Psychology

Feedback of Assignment 01

BARCODE

PYC3701: Social Psychology

Tutorial Letter 201/2017

Dear student,

This tutorial letter deals with:

1. Answers and feedback for Assignment 01.

In this tutorial letter, we provide the correct answers to the questions in Assignment 01, with short explanations as to why a particular alternative is correct. If you answered a question incorrectly please read the explanation in conjunction with the discussion in the prescribed book. Unfortunately we have not included page numbers in some of the answers as there are two editions of the prescribed book being used by students. We suggest that you use the Subject Index at the back of the text book to locate the appropriate page in the book where the topic is discussed.

Lecturers:

Because we are involved with a number of modules/courses, a distribution of chapters is necessary.

Please note once again which lecturers are responsible for which chapters (indicated in brackets).

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1. Answers and feedback for Assignment 01

Question 1

Alternative 3 is correct.

See the definition of schemas (For all items relating to definitions consult the Subject Index at the back of your text book.)

Question 2

Alternative 1 is correct.

Psychologists have recognised for many years that humans have a limited capacity to process information. Information overload occurs when we receive more information (that demands our attention) than can be processed.

Question 3

Alternative 1 is correct.

See the definition of counterfactual thinking.

Question 4

Alternative 2 is correct.

A heuristic is a mental shortcut that allows us to solve problems and make judgments quickly and efficiently. These rule-of-thumb strategies shorten decision-making time and allow people to function without constantly stopping to think about the next course of action. While heuristics are helpful in many situations, they can also lead to biases (pp. 44-45/50-52).

Question 5

Alternative 4 is correct.

When we encode a memory, we do not only record the visual and other sensory data, we also store our present mood. Our current mood thus affects the memories that we are likely to recall. When we are in a good mood we recall good memories (and *vice versa*) (p. 64/60).

Question 6

Alternative 2 is correct.

In general we expect others to be truthful and so do not take notice of clues that may indicate deception (p. 80/77).

Question 7

Alternative 3 is correct.

See the definitions of the various concepts in your text book. (See Subject Index at the back of your text book.)

Question 8

Alternative 1 is correct.

The theory of correspondent inference maintains that we 'believe' that other people's actions correspond to their underlying personality and disposition (pp. 85-86/81).

Question 9

Alternative 4 is correct.

The "fundamental attribution error" (also known as correspondence bias) refers to our tendency to overestimate *dispositional* or personality-based explanations and underestimating situational explanations for the *behaviours* of others. The fundamental attribution error is most evident when people explain the behaviour of others. It does not explain interpretations of one's own behaviour—where situational factors are often taken into account (pp. 89-90/86).

Question 10

Alternative 3 is correct.

Impression formation refers to the process when people integrate pieces of information about another person to form a global impression of the individual (pp. 97-98/93).

Question 11

Alternative 2 is correct.

Tshepo overheard a friend (an ingroup member) describing him to someone else. Such personal identity descriptions, involving comparisons with other individuals who shares our group membership, can be seen as intragroup comparisons (p. 120/114).

Question 12

Alternative 2 is correct.

Generally, our tendency to evaluate stimuli in terms of a like or a dislike emerges to be an initial step in our attempts to make sense of the world around us. It occurs immediately, even before we incorporate a new stimulus into our earlier experience (p. 148/141).

Question 13

Alternative 4 is correct.

Sometimes people's opinions about what others would think about them, or what the perceived norm is, predict their behaviour better than their actual attitudes (p. 158/150).

Question 14

Alternative 3 is correct.

See the definition of persuasion (p. 165/158).

Question 15

Alternative 2 is correct.

Group polarisation involves the tendency of group members to shift toward more extreme positions than those they initially held as a result of group discussion.

Make sure to use the correct unique numbers when submitting your assignments.

Your PYC3701 teaching team