

# Sample Short-Answer Questions for Psychology, Unit 2, 2016

1 In a study of the effect of a religious upbringing on children's empathetic behaviour, researchers discovered that children who had been raised as Christians or Muslims behave in a less empathetic manner than children who had been raised in a non-religious family. A religious upbringing was defined as being in a family who took an active part in a church or mosque program (at least once a fortnight), including going to services and attending a church or mosque school. The degree of empathetic behaviour was determined by the number of stickers that children placed in an envelope for the other children in their school who were not receiving as many stickers as they were. The study took place in a variety of countries. Researchers concluded that a religious upbringing is counterproductive in the development of moral behaviour: that is, that children who are raised in a non-religious household are more likely to show consideration for others and develop empathetic behaviour.

- a What was the independent variable in this study and how was it operationalized?
  - b What was the dependent variable in this study and how was it operationalized?
  - c Identify some problems and limitations of this study and suggest one change that might improve it.
- 2 Give two examples of participant variables. Describe an experimental procedure that might allow you to minimize or eliminate the effects of these variables.

3 What is meant by the term ethical guidelines in psychology research? Give an example of one ethical principle that was not followed in Stanley Milgram's obedience experiment. Explain how his procedure breached this ethical principle.

4 Explain the meaning of the term counterbalancing, using a diagram if desired. In what kind of experimental study is this procedure recommended and why?

5 Walking across the crowded quadrangle, Ms Green, in a sudden attack of maladroit behaviour, drops all her books and even her new laptop. To her surprise, only one student stops to help her pick up her things. What psychological explanation might be given for lack of help that she received?



#VoteHillary @ladygaga · 6h  
@realDonaldTrump you divided us with hateful language & fear . I love everyone in this country and I vote for @HillaryClinton to unite us.



6 Repelled by the misogynistic and racist ideology of Donald Trump, Lady Gaga writes several tweets exhorting her fans and admirers to vote for Hillary Clinton. Identify the elements in the two tweets on the left that illustrate the **A**, **B** and **C** components of an attitude.