

The Social Practical

TBAT prepare and run a questionnaire survey into authority and Agency Theory
What kind of people obey those in authority?

TREAT YOUR PRACTICALS AS
STUDIES YOU HAVE TO WRITE A 12
MARKER ON!!!

KEEP HOLD OF THE NOTES ETC YOU
MAKE – do things in ROUGH before
you put into your workbook!!

What you have to do

- **Not lose your notes / write up**
- Design a survey on a topic in social psychology
- Give the questionnaire to at least **2** people **each**. This should generate enough data to make the survey results reliable and valid
- Use opportunity sampling (use people who are available)
- **Not lose your notes / write up**
- Analyse the data: personal data, closed-ended questions, open-ended questions
- Run a short pilot study in class today to see if the questionnaire works
- Write up your practical (I will give you a specific structure to follow)
- **Did I mention? DO NOT lose your notes / write up**

TBAT prepare and run a questionnaire (Survey) into authority and Agency Theory

Aims and Hypotheses

- The aim of this study is to use self-report data (from a questionnaire) see if people who have an authoritarian personality are also 'agentic' in obeying an authority figure
- Hypotheses (Ps = participants!!)
 1. Ps who report themselves as authoritarian will also tend to see themselves as agentic
 2. There will be a difference between older Ps () and younger Ps () in how much they see themselves as authoritarian/agentic

Design, Sampling and Participants

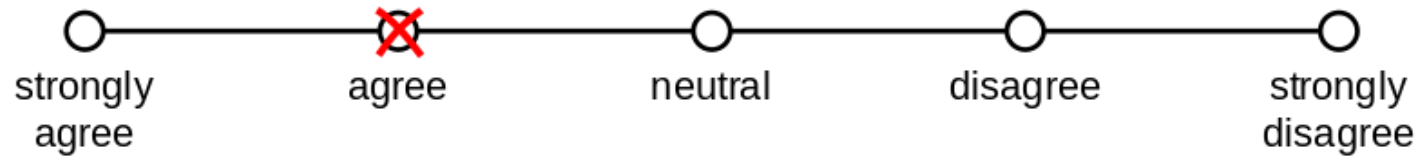
- Design
 - This will be a questionnaire using self-report data
 - It will use open and closed-ended questions
 - It covers more than one research question / hypothesis
- Sampling
 - You will use opportunity sampling – this is when you use people who are available to you (e.g. down in 6th Form, at home).
 - You will collect data from two different groups (16-30, 40 plus)
- Participants
 - As well as specific questions about the research questions you will collect personal data (age, gender, etc.) but no names!!

Design the following closed participant information questions:

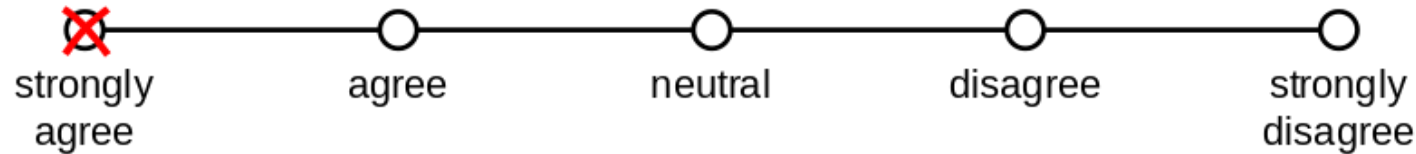
- Gender
- Age group (younger/older group) - young = 16 to 30? Old = 40/50/60 plus...

Website User Survey

1. The website has a user friendly interface.



2. The website is easy to navigate.



Likert Scales

**This year's behavior would
be best described as:**



Likert Scales

Design the following two 'mini' Likert scales

Agency versus Autonomy Scale

- Higher scores should mean more **autonomy**
- 3 statements about agency/autonomy:
 - Tendency to obey authority / desire to make own decisions
 - Sticking to moral code (even if it means going against law/authority etc.)
 - Desire to make own decisions
- Example: I prefer to make my own mind up about important issues

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	2	3	4	5

Design the following two 'mini' Likert scales

Authoritarian versus non-Authoritarian

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	2	3	4	5

- Higher scores should mean more non-Authoritarian
- Example: I believe that children should be taught to challenge adults rather than just obey them blindly
- 3 statements about authoritarianism
 - How much they believe society needs rules
 - Tendency to obey laws
 - Dislike of too much freedom (freedom creates chaos etc.)
 - Children should be taught to obey adults/teachers

Write two open questions about what participants think about the need for authority/obedience in society

- Some people would argue that we need authority figures (because). What do you think of this argument?
- How do you feel about people who defy authority? (**refuse to obey / or you could ask the opposite**)
- Please give me an example of when you obeyed someone in authority – and explain why... **or you could ask the opposite**

Write the debrief. This should include:

- Thanking the participant for taking part
- Assuring them of confidentiality
- Explaining a bit of the theory/what we might expect (e.g. people with authoritarian/agentic personalities tend to be more obedient because they think that social norms are good for society) - use plain English and not **psychologese** here
- Asking them if they are happy for their data to be used and if they have any further questions
- Give them the right to withdraw here!!

Write the introduction statement

- You can read this out – or ask participants to read it themselves
- It should cover:
 - The aim of the research (a survey to investigate what sort of people obey those in authority)
 - The amount of time the questionnaire will take (no more than 10 minutes, but you can adjust this once you've done the pilot)
 - Confidentiality
 - Information about the debrief
 - If participants understand the instructions / allowing them to ask for further information before they begin
 - Their right to withdraw

Pilot the questionnaire

- A pilot allows you to test whether your questionnaire works, whether participants understand the instructions, etc.
- It is run on a small sample of participants
- You need 2 participants for the pilot – 1 ‘younger’ and 1 ‘older’
- Did your participants understand the instructions? The questions? The layout?
- Once you've run the pilot document any changes you need to make
- Make the changes

Pilot 1 and Pilot 2

- Label them
- Make a note of any changes you need to make / want to make
- Check – spelling, too psychologese, asking for age in the gender question
- Score both scales – does it make sense given what people have said?

Running the study

- Use the final version of the questionnaire to collect data from at least
 - 5 'young' people
 - 5 'older' people
- You will be using 'opportunity' sampling – be aware of the strengths and weaknesses of this method!

LO TBAT write up the
introduction and procedure

What a Psychology study looks like



Abstract – a 50-100-word summary of the whole thing (start to end, including results/evaluation)



Introduction – what the study is about, core theories you are looking at, experimental hypotheses



Method: participants, apparatus (questionnaire), procedure



Results: quantitative and qualitative summaries – raw data tables, statistics, graphs



Conclusions: what the quantitative and qualitative results show about the hypotheses – are they upheld? Rejected?



Discussion: what your results mean, how they link/don't link to the theories, evaluation – strengths and weaknesses of this specific study

The Abstract



A 50-100-word summary of the whole thing (start to end, including results/evaluation)



You write this at the end so leave space!

Introduction

The aim/s of the study

Brief description of core concepts (agency, authoritarianism)

Experimental and null hypotheses

The Method



Sampling Method

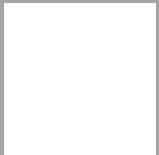
Participants stats
(gender, age)

Questionnaire
design decisions
(closed and open
decisions)

What a Psychology study looks like



Quantitative summary



Qualitative summaries



These include: raw data tables, statistics, graphs

Findings / Conclusions and Discussion



What the quantitative and qualitative results show about the hypotheses – are they upheld? Rejected?



Discussion: what your results mean, how they link/don't link to the theories, evaluation – strengths and weaknesses of this specific study

Introduction and Procedure

- Write these sections up now – follow the guidance in your workbooks
- The aim of this study is to use self-report data (from a questionnaire) see if people who have an authoritarian personality are also ‘agentic’ in obeying an authority figure
- Hypotheses (Ps = participants!!)
 1. Ps who report themselves as authoritarian tend to see themselves as agentic
 2. Ps who report themselves as not authoritarian tend to see themselves as autonomous
 3. There will be a difference between older Ps (30 plus) and younger Ps (16-29) in how much they see themselves as authoritarian/agentic

LO TBAT analyse the
quantitative data from a survey

Median, mode, range

- Calculate these three for:
 - Agentic/Autonomous scores
 - Authoritarian/Non-authoritarian scores
- Label the scores as low/high – you decide on your scoring system!

Participant data and Hypothesis testing

- Participant data. Create labelled bar charts for the distributions of:
 - Gender
 - Age group
 - Create a labelled bar chart to show the distribution of gender
- Hypothesis testing
 - Create frequency tables for the autonomous, agentic, authoritarian scores (see page 52)
 - Indicate if you have a normal distribution, positive or negative skew for your frequency tables (see page 52-53)

Hypothesis testing: 1 and 2

- Put in this table:

	Authoritarian	Non-Authoritarian	Total
Agentic			
Autonomous			
Equal Agentic/Autonomous			
Total			

- Convert the values to percentages

	Authoritarian	Non-Authoritarian	Total percentage
Agentic			
Autonomous			
Equal Agentic/Autonomous			
Total percentage	100%	100%	100%

- Comment on your results – do they support or not support the hypotheses?
- Make sure you comment on both hypothesis 1 and 2 here!

Hypothesis testing: 3

- Put in this table:

	Authoritarian	Non-authoritarian	Totals
Younger Participants (16-29)			
Older Participants (30+)			
Total			

- Convert the values to percentages

	Authoritarian	Non-authoritarian	Total percentage
Younger Participants (16-29)			
Older Participants (30+)			
Total percentage	100%	100%	100%

- Create a bar chart to summarise this data graphically
- Comment on your results – do they support or not support the hypothesis?

Qualitative Data Analysis – Thematic Analysis

Qualitative Data Analysis- Thematic Analysis

Analyzing texts



TBAT prepare and run a questionnaire (Survey) into authority and Agency Theory

LO TBAT write the discussion
section of your report

Follow the instructions in your workbook!!!

LO TBAT evaluate your
survey practical

GRAVE speed dating

TBAT prepare and run a questionnaire (Survey) into authority and Agency Theory

Write up the evaluation

- GRAVE + Sampling
- Find two issues and potential improvements

Completing the practice - Abstract

- A summary of the whole study
- 150-200 words covering the whole project – beginning to end (See advice in workbook)