

Social Psychology / Sociocultural Psychiatry: A 'High Yield' MRCPsych Perspective

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Aims and Objectives

- Aims
 - Overall aim is to give an overview of social psychiatry and sociocultural psychiatry relevant to the MRCPsych course
- Objectives
 - By the end of the session trainees should understand:
 - Some of the high yield concepts of social psychiatry
 - Some of the high yield concepts of sociocultural psychiatry



Definitions

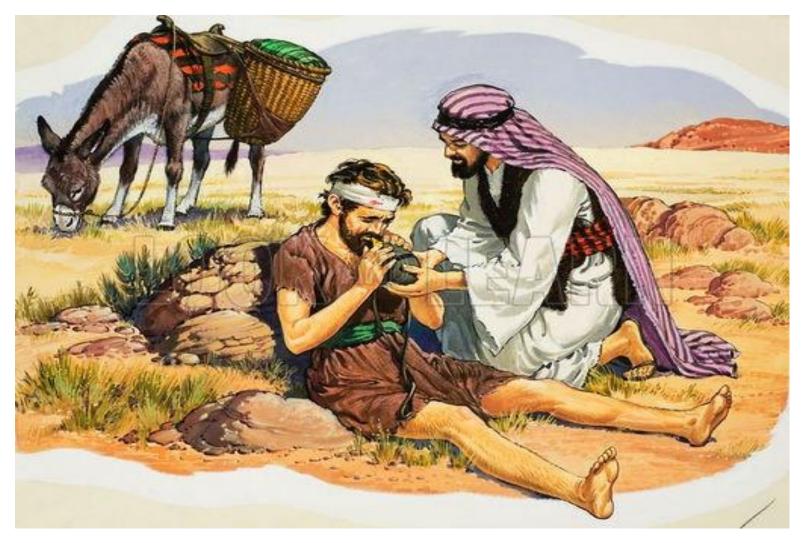
- Social Psychology
 - The branch of psychology that deals with social interactions, including their origins and their effects on the individual
- Sociocultural Psychiatry
 - Branch of psychiatry that focuses on the interpersonal and cultural context of the mental disorder and mental wellbeing



This session

- Social Psychology
 - The concepts covered:
 - Altruism
 - Aggression
 - Cognitive dissonance
 - Attitude and the measurement of attitudes
 - Self psychology
 - Prejudice
 - Conformity and obedience
 - Group processes
 - Leadership
 - Social influences
 - Interpersonal issues

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1. Altruism: Background

- In the story of the Good Samaritan, a man who is walking down a country road is robbed, beaten and left for dead on the side of the road.
- Two men pass by, and both leave the man to die on the side of the road.
- Then, a man from a group who hates the beaten man's group passes by, and he stops to help.
- What makes some people help and not others?



1. Altruism

- Social psychologists seek answers to questions like these.
- They study, among other things, prosocial behavior, or any behavior that is meant to help other people.
- When the motivation for prosocial behavior is to help others without any thought to what you might get in return, it is called **altruism**.
- Notice the difference in these two things: prosocial behavior are the helping actions a person takes, while altruism is one possible motivation for those actions.



- Kin Selection (evolutionary model)
 - An evolutionary concept that says that people will help others who are related to them, even at a cost to themselves.
 - Several psychological studies have shown that people feel more protective of and connected to the people related to them - the closer the relation, the stronger the feeling.
 - But, why would people want to help the people related to them more than other people? According to the theory of evolution, this is because we want our genes to survive for future generations



- Kin Selection (evolutionary model)
 - Supported by empirical studies, show preference for helping close blood relatives (e.g. organ donation)
 - Mathematical simulations demonstrate possible selection process in evolution with reciprocity
 - Cannot explain why people help individuals who are not related (i.e. adoption/acts of bravery/cooperation between under-related individuals)
 - Human kinship –not necessarily based upon blood ties. Shared developmental environment, familiarity, social bonding contribute to kinship.



- Reciprocity Norm
 - Someone gives you a gift, and then you felt like you had to give them one back
 - How does this relate to prosocial behavior? If I see that you need help, I might help you because I know that then you'll want to help me.



- Empathy Altruism Theory (Batson 1981)
 - Helper's motives that determine whether behaviour is altruistic
 - Perception of situation and emotion that follows determines whether an individual will help or not
 - Observing another's situation may produce empathic concern (sympathy/compassion) or personal distress.
 - Empathy evokes altruistic motivation to reduce another person's distress; personal distress evokes egoistic motivation to reduce one's own distress



- Empathy Altruism Theory (Batson 1991)
 - Three factors facilitate perspective taking:
 - Observer has had similar experiences
 - Observer is attached to the victim
 - The person is instructed to imagine what it is like to be in the victim's position



- Empathy Altruism Theory (Batson 1991)
 - Supported by many experimental studies.
 - Can predict to some extent conditions under which altruistic behaviour will happen (i.e. people who do not feel empathy are unlikely to help....)
 - Difficult to generalize
 - Problematic as not possible to determine if empathic motivation or escape of one's own negative emotions
 - Empathy does not always precede behaviour. People may help for other reasons.



- Bystander Intervention/Apathy Experiment(John Darley and Bibb Latané 1964 experiment 'inspired' by Kitty Genovese Murder)
 - When alone, individuals intervene if another person is in need
 - Intervention less likely by an individual in a crowd
- Diffusion of Responsibility
 - Person thinks that they have some responsibility but also assumes others do to; let someone else help
- Dissolution of Responsibility
 - Not knowing what others are doing; rationalises that someone else would have helped the victim.



- Pluralistic Ignorance
 - In a crowd, people look at each other for signs of distress but remain calm themselves, leading to a misappraisal that the situation is safe which means a lack of intervention
- Arousal/cost-reward
 - Emotional arousal on seeing a victim causes a person to act, but a cognitive appraisal happens first. If the cost is high, there is a reappraisal and often blame is give to the victim



2. Aggression

- Feelings of anger or antipathy resulting in hostile or violent behaviour; readiness to attack or confront.
- Lots of own examples for aggression and aggressive behaviours
- Often useful to consider why our patients present with aggression
- We will talk through some of the different types of aggression
- No one single theory or even a combination of all the instinctive response and learning theories taken together, provides a satisfactory answer to these questions of the causation of the above



2. Aggression: Types

- Instrumental Aggression
 - Means to an end (kidnapping for ransom)
- Hostile Aggression
 - Aimed at hurting someone
- Positive Aggression
 - Combating prejudice and self defence
- Pathological Aggression
 - Violence for the sake of being violent
- Overt v Covert Aggression
 - Overt is observable, covert is more subtle such as telling lies etc

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2. Aggression: Theories (Instinctive Response)

- Freud Models
 - Human behaviours are motivated by sexual and instinctive drives known as 'the libido' – energy derived from Eros, or the life instinct.
 - Repression of these instinctive urges that leads to aggression and this,.
 - Freud also developed the concept of 'Thanatos' or the death force.
 - The energy encourages destruction and in the conflict between Eros and Thanatos, negative energy is produced and directed at others as aggression to prevent the build up of excess and the self-destruction of the individual.

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2. Aggression: Theories (Instinctive Response)

- Konrad Lorenz
 - Combined Freud's hypothesis with Darwin's theory of natural selection and proposed that instinctive aggression was a product of evolution.
 - In this theory, aggressiveness is beneficial and allows for the success and survival of populations of aggressive species since the stronger would eliminate the weaker ones over the course of evolution.
 - Lorenz argued that whilst animal and human aggressive behaviour was motivated by survival, aggressive behaviour in humans is not appropriately shaped and modified.
 - Lorenz had a rather bleak view of the human race and said that the degree of violence that humans direct toward their own kind is shockingfactors such as empathy for the victim are not activated.



2. Aggression: Theories (Learned Response)

- According to these theories, aggression is a learned response and individuals learn to be aggressive to get what they want as part of normal development and social behaviour.
- They do this by watching others and imitating their behaviour and learning to respond in this way themselves through positive reinforcement
- This theory gives rise to the debate about individual behaviour, particularly in childhood, being influenced by TV violence or video games. It also leads to debates about the influence of poor parenting on childhood development, and the impact of aggressive footballers or celebrities



2. Aggression: Theories (Learned Response)

- Bandura's 'Bobo Doll' Experiments
 - Observational learning
 - When children observe an aggressive model, they often reproduce this precisely particularly if the aggression is rewarded
 - He claimed that in order for social learning to occur the child must form a mental representation of events in their social environment and have expectations of future outcomes involving possible rewards and punishments for their aggressive behaviour



2. Aggression: The Media

- Media influences on aggressive behavior
 - High arousal
 - Disinhibition believing that the behaviour is common
 - Imitation and copycat behaviour (Shannon Matthews and Shameless)
 - Desensitization due to repeat showing
 - Priming with enhanced automatic associations of certain simuli with a crime



2. Aggression: Theories (Learned Response)

- Dollard and Miller
 - Frustration-aggression hypothesis
 - They suggested that aggression was driven by frustration
 - They argued that aggression was actually a failure to acquire adaptive behaviours in response to a particular set of circumstances, that is, when the path to a particular goal is blocked.



2. Aggression: Theories (Learned Response)

- Berkowitz
 - Aggressive cue theory hypothesis
 - Frustration produces not aggression but a readiness to respond aggressively
 - Once the person is ready, cues in the environment eg knives and guns will lead the frustrated person to behave aggressively
 - Neither frustration nor cues can cause the aggression alone



- Cognitive Dissonance Theory (Festinger)
 - There is the strive for consistency between thoughts, feelings and behaviors – 'Cognitive Consistency'
 - 'cognitive dissonance theory' describes a powerful motive to maintain cognitive consistency can give rise to maladaptive behaviour
 - Participant observation study of a cult which believed that the earth was going to be destroyed by a flood
 - Fringe members were more inclined to recognize that they had made fools of themselves but committed members were more likely to re-interpret the evidence



- Reducing the Dissonance (The smoking example)
 - Individuals can change one or more of the attitudes, behavior, beliefs etc. so as to make the relationship between the two elements a consonant one.
 - When one of the dissonant elements is a behavior, the individual can change or eliminate the **behavior**.
 - However, this mode of dissonance reduction frequently presents problems for people, as it is often difficult for people to change well-learned behavioral responses (e.g. giving up smoking).



- Reducing the Dissonance (The smoking example)
 - A second (cognitive) method of reducing dissonance is to acquire new information that outweighs the dissonant beliefs.
 - For example, thinking smoking causes lung cancer will cause dissonance if a person smokes.
 - But... people often seek out information such as 'smoking doesn't cause cancer'



- Reducing the Dissonance (The smoking example)
 - A third way to reduce dissonance is to reduce the importance of the cognitions (i.e. beliefs, attitudes).
 - A person could convince themself that it is better to "live for today" than to "save for tomorrow."
 - In other words, he could tell himself that a short life filled with smoking and sensual pleasures is better than a long life devoid of such joys.
 - In this way, he would be decreasing the importance of the dissonant cognition (smoking is bad for ones health).



4. Attitudes

- Attitudes are 'learned predispositions to respond in a consistently favourable or unfavorable way towards a given object, person or event' (Azjen and Fishbein, 1975)
- Attitudes are combinations of beliefs and values
- Beliefs
 - Based on knowledge of the world and we link an object to an attribute
 - 'USA is a nation built on capitalism'
- Values
 - Importance or desirability of the object
 - 'I do not like capitalism'



4. Attitudes: Measurement

- Thurstone Scales
 - A researcher comes up with a series of statements about a subject.
 - For example, if we wanted to measure people's attitudes about smoking, we might write things like, 'People who smoke get what they deserve,' or 'People who smoke deserve equal treatment'
 - Then the statements are given to several judges. Each judge rates each statement on a scale of 1 (very negative) to 11 (very positive).
 - From the judges' ratings, each statement is given an average score.
 - We take a list of statements to participants and have each of them mark whether they agree or disagree.
 - For each person, you then get the average and see the attitude



4. Attitudes: Measurement

- Likert Scales
 - Include 'agree' to 'disagree' on a 5 point scale (usually)
- Others
 - Sociometry (Moreno) (relationships described in nodal sociograms)
 - Semantic differential (Osgood) (bitter/sweet; good/bad)
 - (Gussman Models)



5. Self Psychology: Concepts

- Self consciousness
 - Awareness of the distinct self compared to others (humans)
- Self image
 - Ones description of social roles, personality and physical self
 - Descriptive
- Self esteem
 - This refers to personal judgement of worthiness
 - Evaluative
- Ideal self
 - What we would like ourselves to be



5. Self Psychology: Concept of self

- 'Touching the Dot' (Mirror self recognition test Gallup 1970)
 - To demonstrate self recognition
 - Red dot placed on the face and child touches the face to explore the dot
 - Never occurs before 15 months of age
 - 5-25% touch the dot by 18 months
 - 75% touch the dot by 20 months
 - Concluded that the concept of self perception occurs between 18-20 months (rapidly)
 - Maybe a reflection of behavioural recognition similar to me rather than self-recognition – this is me



6. Prejudice

- 'Preconceived opinion that is not usually based on reason or actual experience'
- Prejudice is essentially an attitude with cognitive, affective and behavioural components
- It can be both positive and negative although is usually associated with the negative



6. Prejudice: Theories

- Authoritarian Personality (Adorno)
 - Authoritarians are prejudiced in a generalised manner
 - Difficult upbringing and disciplinarian rules in childhood lead to projection on minorities
 - Not a great model doesn't explain the surges in prejudices in history
- Scapegoating
 - Based on the frustration-aggression model by Dollard
 - Displace the aggression onto a minority / soft target
 - Can be affected by the social mood



6. Prejudice: Theories

- Relative Deprivation Theory
 - Supplements the scapegoating theory
 - Discrepancy between actual attainments and expectations of society is called relative deprivation
 - Unrest and scapegoating can occur
- Realistic Conflict Theory
 - The mere suggestion of competition can trigger prejudice
 - Robbers Cove Experiments: by Sherriff
 - At a 200 acre summer camp at Robbers Cove, 2 groups (of 22 11yr olds each) created and developed strong in group preferences
 - When competition was introduced between groups, and increase in prejudice and aggression to 'outgroup'. (third stage – integration – increased cooperation)



6. Prejudice: Reducing it

- Blue Eyes / Brown Eyes (Elliott)
 - When one experiences prejudice, own discriminatory behavior reduces later
 - In a classroom, blue eyed children were treated badly by brown eyed children (deliberately) but in reverse, there was less aggression
- Contact Hypothesis (Allport)
 - Contact between 2 different groups reduced prejudice
 - It is the lack of knowledge between the groups that increased aggression but reduced with knowledge



6. Conformity and Obedience

- Conformity
 - Process in which there is no explicit requirement is made to do a certain task, but peer influence and the need for acceptance pushes through the task
- Obedience
 - Conditions where the individual is explicitly asked to do the task, and instruction comes from an authority



6. Conformity and Obedience

- Sherif experiments
 - Used the autokinetic effect of light (distance moved by light source)
 - Individuals gave a wide range of responses
 - When grouped together, gave modified answers (group norms)
- Asch experiments
 - Length assessment tool
 - Size of group between 3-5 people influenced conformity
 - Giving opinions privately reduced conformity



6. Conformity and Obedience

- Milgram's experiments
 - Subjects managed by an authoritative figure in a white coat
 - Asked to deliver electric shocks to victims
 - Ordinary people are likely to follow orders given by an authority figure, even to the extent of killing an innocent human being.
 - Obedience to authority is ingrained in us all from the way we are brought up
 - This gave some evidence to what the Nazis did



7. Group Processes

- Risky shift
 - A group can make more risky decisions than an individual can
- Group polarisation
 - Strengthen an inclination and drive the group to a polar opinion (but the direction they were headed anyway)
- Groupthink
 - The desire to agree with the group members can over-ride rational judgement and usual views



8. Leadership

- Lewin (1939)
 - Autocratic: leader's decision making occurs without consultation and causes the most discontent
 - Democratic: leader's decision making involves others though the decision is with the leader having facilitated a group conversation. Can be time consuming
 - Laissez-Faire: leader's involvement is minimal and others make the decision. It works well with motivated people and no need for central coordination



8. Interpersonal issues: Attribution

- This is the process in which we make judgments about the causes of behaviours (Heider, 1958)
- People act like amateur scientists trying to understand other people's behaviours by piecing together the information until they arrive at a reasonable explanation



8. Interpersonal issues: Attribution

- First impression (primacy effect)
 - First impressions count
 - Positive initial impression more likely to change than negative
 - Primacy is more important to strangers and recency to friends
- Halo effect
 - Perceive people as wholly good or wholly bad based on a few traits looks, 1 episode of behaviour
 - Positive or negative traits may spill over into other areas for example, policemen may conclude someone is guilty if they have seen the same traits in another person



8. Interpersonal issues: Attribution

- Barnum effect
 - General and vague personality descriptions and strange predictions have relevance – astrologers (Librans are well balanced etc)
- Pygmalion effect / Rosenthal effect
 - Self fulfilling prophecy
 - Students with poor expectations from teachers internalise their negative label and perform more poorly, and those with positive expectations internalise their positive labels and perform better
- Domino effect
 - Unhappy in 1 aspect of life means unhappy in all aspects



Any Questions?

Thank you.... MCQs



This session

- Sociocultural Psychiatry
 - The concepts covered:
 - Family life and mental illness
 - Social factors and mental illness
 - Institutions



Family Life

- General systems model
 - Families are systems
 - Every action in a family produces a reaction in one or more of its members
 - Has external boundaries and internal rules
 - Every member is supposed to play a stable but interchangeable role



Family Life

- Family cycle model
 - Stage 1: formation of the new family with 2 individuals uniting forming a child, restructuring with other families
 - Stage 2: child rearing stage to adolescence
 - Stage 3: child launching when children leave home and the parents re-establish their own interests
 - Stage 4: return of independence and growth of family leads to ties across the generations
 - Stage 5: dissolution of the family due to decline or death



Family Life: Some 'causal' links

- Lidz, Cornelison, Fleck, and Terry (1957)
 - Patterns of marital interaction observed in the parents of adolescent and young adults with schizophrenia
 - Marital Schism
 - "severe chronic disequilibrium and discord"
 - Parents downgrade the roles of each other and sometimes collude with children to exclude the other parent
 - Marital Skew
 - "Equilibrium achieved"
 - Very distorted parental relationship ie dominant partner



Family Life: Some 'causal' links

- Fromm-Reichmann model
 - The Schizophrenogenic mother
 - Mothers were described as 'rejecting, impervious to the feelings of others, rigid in moralism concerning sex and had a fear of intimacy'
- Double-blind relationship model
 - Superficial communication is different to the deeper communication among members of the family
 - Mixed messages keep a child in a double blind environment



Family Life: Expressed Emotion

- Expressed Emotion
 - Brown and Rutter (1966)
 - Part of the Camberwell Family Interview (CFI)
 - Ratings based on content and prosody of speech in 5 areas
 - Critical comments
 - Positive remarks
 - Emotional over involvement
 - Hostility
 - Emotional warmth
 - EOI, critical comments and hostility linked to schizophrenia



Social Factors and Mental Illness

- Engel's model
 - Proposed the biopsychosocial model
- Social causation theories
 - Mental illness caused by social deprivation
 - Most psychiatric disorders in lower SES
 - Depression / alcohol v Bipolar disorder
- Social drift / social selection theories
 - Survey sampling males 25-34 on first admission for psychosis
 - Expected excess of social class V but their fathers had an even distribution therefore a social drift



Suicide and Sociology

- Durkheim described 4 types of suicide
 - Altrusitic: individual is overly attached to social norms and dies for the sake of society eg kamikaze pilots, monks, ISIS
 - Egoistic: excessive individualism but low social integration
 - Fatalistic: individual experiences pervasive oppression.
 Durkheim has defined fatalistic suicide as resulting "from excessive regulation." Suicide by individuals whose passions are choked by oppressive discipline.
 - Anomic: disillusionment and disappointment with and an absence of clear societal norms and values



Depression and Sociology

- Brown and Harris (1978)
 - Examined depression in women living in inner London in 1978
 - 4 Vulnerability factors
 - Absence of a close confiding relationship
 - Loss of a mother before the age of 11
 - Lack of employment outside the home
 - Having 3 or more children under 15 living at home



Schizophrenia and Sociology

- Social defeat hypothesis
 - 'long term experiences of social disadvantage lead to sensitization of the dopamine system'
 - Racism, discrimination, economic and 'outsider status'
 - Neighborhood effect (migration)
- Stress and social adversity hypothesis
 - Social adversity is associated with a higher degree of stress that can be exceptionally harmful in context of vulnerability to psychosis
- Childhood abuse and family dysfunction hypothesis
 - Abuse not a specific risk factor, but a marker for family dysfunction which is a risk



Schizophrenia and Sociology

- Urban Effect
 - Children born in urban environments are at an increased risk of psychosis
- Immigration and Schizophrenia
 - Lots of different and often conflicting evidence with increasing risk overall
 - Risk is not specific for African-Caribbean immigrants as African-born Black immigrants to the UK at risk too therefore more complex than race
 - Rate of schizophrenia in second generation African-Caribbean people born in the UK appears to be higher than in the first generation, which is strongly suggestive of an environmental cause
 - Immigrants pathway to psychiatric care are characterized by long delays in accessing care, lower chances of referrals, more police involvement, more PICU admissions and worse outcomes



Sociology of Institutions (Mental Health)

- Goffman (1953) described 'total institutions'
 - All aspects of life are conducted in the same premises and under the same unitary authority
 - Each member's daily activities are carried out in the immediate proximity of a large batch of others who are also required to do the same things
 - All parts of the single day's activities are strictly scheduled with on leading to the next
 - The different enforced activities are based on a single plan whose purpose is the fulfillment of the aims of the institution.



Sociology of Institutions

- Goffman described 'moral career' of stigma and mental illness
 - Betrayal Funnel: people we trust talk to the doctors/nurses who are the decision makers
 - Role Stripping: the institutionalization process starts by stripping the identity ie hospital clothes
 - Mortification: person becomes a full member of the institution with private, personal activities on public display etc
 - Privilege System: based on house rules to reward good behavior and freedom is a token of reward



Cultural Psychiatry

- Acculturation
 - Cultural change that takes place when an individual / group comes into contact with a culturally distinct group
 - Can occur in either direction host or migrant
 - 4 main types for small groups
 - 4 main types for larger groups



Cultural Psychiatry

• Acculturation for small groups

	High degree of retention of culture of origin	Low degree of retention of culture of origin
High degree of adoption of the new culture	Integration	Assimilation
Low degree of adoption of the new culture	Separation	Marginalisation



Cultural Psychiatry

• Acculturation for bigger groups

	High degree of retention of individual culture	Low degree of retention of individual culture
High degree of relationship among various cultures	Multiculturalism	Melting pot
Low degree of relationship among various cultures in the society	Segregation	Exclusion



Any Questions?

Thank you.... MCQs



MCQs

Which of the following is not a scale to assess attitudes?

- A. Likert scale
- B. Thurstone scale
- C. Guttman scale
- D. Osgood's scale
- E. Cornell scale



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MCQs

Which of the following is not true?

A.5-25% of infants touch the dot by 18 months B.75% of infants touch the dot by 20 months

C. 100% of infants touch the dot by 24 months

D. Self recognition develops between 18-20 months E.Autobiographical memory in humans develops around 3.5-4.5 years



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- A. High levels of arousal
- B. Disinhibition
- C. Imitation
- D. Desensitisation
- E. Pluralistic ignorance



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MCQs

Which of the following does not describe the Pygmalion effect?

- A. Self fulfilling prophecy
- B. Short term improvement by observing worker bias
- C. Internalisation of labels
- D. Also known as the Rosenthal effect
- E. Students with positive labels perform better



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MCQs

Which of the following describes obedience?

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- B. Authorities are the source of power
- C. Need for compliance
- D. Need for acceptance
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MCQs

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- A. Encourage open debate
- B. Acknowledge the presence of groupthink
- C. Split into smaller units
- D. Encourage challenges
- E. Look for early control



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Which of the following is true about leadership models?

A.In autocratic leadership, decision making is with consultation of others

- B. Acknowledge the presence of groupthink
- C. Democratic leadership produces fast results
- D. Laissez-faire has the worst productivity
- E.Democratic leadership involves minimal debate



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MCQs

Which of the following is not a theory of aggression?

- A. Genetic
- B. Social learning theory
- C. Frustration-aggression
- D. Generalised arousal
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