



Department of Sociology
Sociology 2A
Section A Group Dynamics
June 2020 examination
Due by 23:30 13th June 2020

NOTE: THIS EXAM CONSISTS OF TWO PARTS – GROUP DYNAMICS AND CONFLICT STUDIES. PLEASE DOWNLOAD AND ANSWER EACH SECTION SEPARATELY

PART 1: GROUP DYNAMICS

Question 1

- 1.1 Name and describe five **ways** in which a group can provide **social support** to its members to help them manage during the COVID-19 pandemic. **(5)**
- 1.2 Describe five **sources of cohesion** that could lead to an increase in the level of cohesion among the members of the COVID-19 Command Council. **(5)**
- 1.3 What do we call:
 - 1.3.1 the principle of attraction where people tend to join groups that are physically close to them? **(1)**
 - 1.3.2 the principle of attraction where people tend to be attracted to groups whose members they view as sharing the same characteristics? **(1)**
 - 1.3.3 the principle of attraction where the group expands because members convince their friends to join the group? **(1)**
 - 1.3.4 the tendency for people to be attracted to groups where they get the highest benefits while having to make the least sacrifices? **(1)**
 - 1.3.5 the principle of attraction where people tend to like those that they think like them? **(1)**
- 1.4 Name the following forms of influence:
 - 1.4.1 Influence that is unnoticed and largely automatic. **(1)**
 - 1.4.2 The use of verbal and nonverbal tactics to promote conformity. **(1)**

- 1.4.3 When members feel, think, and act in ways that are consistent with their group's social standards. (1)
- 1.4.4 When group members accept information received from another as evidence about reality. (1)
- 1.4.5 The tendency for people to be less likely to assist someone in distress if others are present. (1)
- 1.5 The presence of others could have a positive or negative effect on the performance of individuals. Sports events are now beginning to take place again but without any audience present. Explain how the **absence** of an audience could affect sports individuals' achievement and why. (5)

Subtotal = 25

Question 2

Discuss **group decision making** with reference to the following:

- 2.1 Describe the problems that could occur during discussions within the COVID-19 Command Council about how to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. (10)
- 2.2 Describe how **group polarisation** could have played a role in the COVID-19 Command Council's reversal with regard to the sale of tobacco products at the beginning of level four of the lockdown. (5)
- 2.3 Imagine you are an observer during the COVID-19 Command Council's discussions about dealing with the pandemic. Describe the **preceding conditions** that could lead to the development of **groupthink** among this group, analyse the **symptoms** of groupthink that might be present and advise the President about ways in which he could ensure that groupthink is **prevented**. (10)

Subtotal = 25

TOTAL = 50 MARKS