



To what extent does the Stanley Milgram experiment prove that all ordinary individuals have the capability to commit morally deviant acts?

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION CHARLIE - LOWER SIXTH

Psychology is a subject which has always captured my interest and sparked many long and generally inconclusive conversations with people I know. It's never long before I'm coming to friends with a new psychological concept or theory which we all will end up debating. Although I didn't end up taking it for A-level, I knew that I wanted to continue to learn and discuss ideas about topics relating to psychology in some way or another, which is why it seemed the obvious choice to base my EPQ on a well-known psychological experiment.

The Milgram experiment was devised to investigate obedience to authority figures and explores how human nature allows one to abandon one's moral compass and act inhumanly without compassion or restraint when not being held accountable, setting out to answer the question: 'Is it that individuals are inherently evil or just forced into an evil system?'. I found that my opinions and theories surrounding this topic changed many times before reaching my conclusion as I discovered more and more about the intricacies of the experiment and explanations.

Learning about the Milgram experiment has not only opened a whole new aspect to psychology which I had not previously explored, but also sparked many debates and interesting conversations about the fragility of our moral compass and our deeply engrained, seemingly automatic obedience to authority.

I previously had considered doing an EPQ, but the cancellation of GCSEs made it seem like an obvious choice. Staying productive during lockdown and taking advantage of all the new time I had on my hands made writing an EPQ seem like an ideal opportunity.