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PSY441: Psychology of Personality

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### Essay # 1

1. Science is a field of study that focuses on collecting, analyzing, and interpreting facts as well as testing hypotheses to confirm general laws. To explain and organize their observations, scientists often utilize theories as helpful tools. A theory can also assist in developing testable hypotheses. Science would be severely limited in its ability to make sense of findings and to indicate potential study routes without any sort of theory. Theories are not irrational illusions concocted by amoral academics afraid to get their hands dirty with the tools of scientific inquiry. Science cannot proceed without theories, which are highly useful in and of themselves. Theory building is founded on speculation and empirical observations, but speculation should not run rampant before controlled observation can take place.
2. The definition of personality is a topic of debate among psychologists. Most scholars concur that the Latin word *persona*, which described a theatrical mask used by Roman performers in Greek tragedies, is where the word "personality" first appeared. These performers in ancient Rome wore masks (*personas*) to present a part or false look. Of obviously, this superficial description of personality is inadequate. When psychologists use the word *personality*, they're referring to more than just the roles that people perform. A person's personality is a set of distinctive qualities that give their conduct stability and distinctiveness. Individual variances in behavior, consistency through time, and

situational stability are all influenced by traits. Whether a trait is unique, shared by a particular group, or universal to the entire species, each person's pattern will differ. Each person has a distinct personality even though they are similar to others in various aspects. A person's characteristics are distinctive features, which might include traits like intelligence, physicality, and temperament.

4. It's critical to distinguish between a priori contrasts, which are made before the collection of data, and post hoc analogies, which are evaluated after the data have been gathered. By identifying connections between characteristic values and expectations, post hoc explanations try to forecast how a black box will behave. Many local explanation techniques are model-agnostic, which means they do not have insight into the model's internal organization. For instance, "All bachelors are unmarried" is an example of a priori information or justification that is independent of experience; in contrast, a correct position or explanation is reliant on experience or scientific research which and empirical evidence would be that many bachelors are content.