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### Introduction Essay Questions

2. What is personality? What are some of the limitations of current definitions of the term?

Personality is defined by how someone is in social climates. “First, it limits the number and kinds of behavior considered as aspects of personality; that is, only those kinds of behaviors that the perceivers select in making judgments about the attractiveness or unattractiveness of the perceived are regarded as part of personality. Second, it carries the absurd implication that some individuals, who obviously have unique learning histories and unique, biologically based temperament traits, are devoid of personality.” ( Ryckman, 2012) When I read this I immediately wondered, are people nobodies when they’re alone? Obviously not, which is why the new definition is that personality is a set of characteristics that a person possesses and influences their way of life. Their cognitive, what motivates them, and how they react in different situations. This approach is much more effective because it doesn’t base personality, which is such a broad topic, on something so specific and miniscule.

4. What is the difference between a priori and post hoc explanations? Give some examples.

Priori explanations are what scientists usually prefer because they consider all explanations to form a prediction before data is collected. An example would be the lottery. People who participate consider the chances they have of winning the lottery with the numbers they pick before submitting their card. Post hoc explanations are the explanation of a

phenomenon after it had occurred. There is no concrete evidence describing the cause of the phenomenon, but there are several explanations made about the factors that could've been to play. An example would be in medicine. When COVID spread all over the world, scientists came up with many theories as to why the virus broke out. Also, the scientists were trying to figure out how it spread so fast, how it spread, where it came from, how we can stop it, and many more questions concerning the possible factors.

6. What are the six criteria used by personality psychologists to judge the scientific worth of theories? Give some examples of each.

Comprehensiveness is the test to see if the theory includes a wide range of data rather than a limited range. An example is if someone was trying to determine how Covid was affecting whites vs blacks instead of all people of color vs white people. Or even people with prior health issues vs people who were seemingly healthy. Precision and testability is when a theory is clearly defined and stated in easy to read language. The theory must also have a testable hypothesis. An example is if I was to make a hypothesis about whether red skittles are better than yellow skittles. The hypothesis is clear and obviously anyone can understand what that means. My testability is clear too because of the detailed and structured written procedure. Anyone besides me can conduct an experiment with my notes with no trouble. Parsimony is when the theory only has statements needed for the explanations of the phenomena. This ties into what I discussed earlier about the skittles. If I added unnecessary information about hershey bars and snickers into my hypothesis or procedure, any scientist would waste their time and effort studying the meaningless information. Empirical Validity is when the theory has data to support it. Going back to the skittles experiment, if I had a hundred people taste red and yellow skittles without knowing which they're eating. And more than half say that red is better than I have data to

support my theory. Heuristic Value is when the theory stimulates investigators to further the research. My skittle research could make scientists want to test other flavors against each other in a tournament style. Last one standing is the best tasting skittle! Applied Value is when the theory leads to new solutions to people's problems. Tasting skittle flavors isn't a problem that people need to solve, but the effect of certain ingredients in our food is something that needs to be solved. Scientists conducting experiments about whether certain ingredients in our food are leading to people having health issues could make a great impact on the whole country.