

# Antisocial Relations

## MODULE OVERVIEW

Module 45 discusses how people relate to one another in a negative fashion—developing prejudice, behaving aggressively, and provoking conflict.

Although there is some terminology for you to learn in this module, your primary task is to absorb the findings of the many research studies discussed. The module headings, which organize the findings, should prove especially useful to you here. In addition, you might, for each main topic, ask yourself the question, "What situational factors promote this phenomenon?" The research findings can then form the basis for your answers.

NOTE: Answer guidelines for all Module 45 questions begin on page 380.

## MODULE REVIEW

First, skim each section, noting headings and bold-face items. After you have read the section, review each objective by answering the fill-in and essay-type questions that follow it. In some cases, Study Tips explain how best to learn a difficult concept and Applications help you to know how well you understand the material. As you proceed, evaluate your performance by consulting the answers beginning on page 380. Do not continue with the next section until you understand each answer. If you need to, review or reread the section in the textbook before continuing.

### Prejudice

**Objective 45-1:** Define *prejudice*, and identify its social and emotional roots.

1. Prejudice is an \_\_\_\_\_ and usually \_\_\_\_\_ attitude toward a group that involves overgeneralized beliefs known as \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Like all attitudes, prejudice is a mixture of \_\_\_\_\_ and predispositions to \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Prejudice is a negative \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ is a negative \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Americans today express \_\_\_\_\_ (less/the same/more) racial and gender prejudice than they did 50 years ago.
5. (text and Close-Up) Blatant forms of prejudice \_\_\_\_\_ (have/have not) diminished. However, even people who deny holding prejudiced attitudes may carry negative \_\_\_\_\_ about race.
6. (Close-Up) Studies of prejudice indicate that it is often an unconscious, or \_\_\_\_\_, action. Research has shown that \_\_\_\_\_ people with a flashed Black rather than White face makes them \_\_\_\_\_ (more/less) likely to perceive a flashed tool as a gun.
7. (Close-Up) Today's biopsychosocial approach has stimulated neuroscience studies that have detected implicit prejudice in people's \_\_\_\_\_-muscle responses and in the activation of their brain's \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Worldwide, \_\_\_\_\_ (women/men) are more likely to live in poverty. People tend to perceive women as being more \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and less \_\_\_\_\_ than men.
9. For those with money, power, and prestige, prejudice often serves as a means of \_\_\_\_\_ social inequalities.

10. The belief that people get what they deserve—that the good are rewarded and the bad punished—is expressed in the \_\_\_\_\_ phenomenon.
11. Discrimination increases prejudice through the tendency of people to \_\_\_\_\_ victims for their plight.
12. Through our \_\_\_\_\_, we associate ourselves with certain groups and contrast ourselves with others.
13. Prejudice is also fostered by the \_\_\_\_\_, a tendency to favor groups to which one belongs—called the \_\_\_\_\_—while excluding others, or the \_\_\_\_\_.
14. That prejudice derives from attempts to blame others for one's frustration is proposed by the \_\_\_\_\_ theory.
15. People who feel loved and supported become more \_\_\_\_\_ to and \_\_\_\_\_ of those who differ from them.
16. Prejudice is also nourished by \_\_\_\_\_ emotions.

**Objective 45-2:** Identify the cognitive roots of prejudice.

17. Research suggests that prejudice may also derive from \_\_\_\_\_, the process by which we attempt to simplify our world by classifying people into groups. One by-product of this process is that people tend to \_\_\_\_\_ the similarity of those within a group. One manifestation of this is the \_\_\_\_\_, the tendency to recall faces of one's own race more accurately than those of other races.
18. Another factor that fosters the formation of group stereotypes and prejudice is the tendency to \_\_\_\_\_ from vivid or memorable cases.
19. The belief that people get what they deserve is

based in part on \_\_\_\_\_, the tendency to believe that one would have foreseen how something turned out.

#### APPLICATIONS:

20. Students at State University are convinced that their school is better than any other; this most directly illustrates
- an ingroup bias.
  - prejudice and discrimination.
  - the scapegoat effect.
  - the just-world phenomenon.
21. Alexis believes that all male athletes are self-centered and sexist. Her beliefs are an example of
- in-group bias.
  - groupthink.
  - stereotypes.
  - the fundamental attribution error.
22. Ever since their cabin lost the camp softball competition, the campers have become increasingly hostile toward one camper in their cabin, blaming her for every problem in the cabin. This behavior is best explained in terms of
- the ingroup bias.
  - prejudice.
  - the scapegoat theory.
  - catharsis.
23. Given the tendency of people to categorize information according to preformed schemas, which of the following stereotypes would Juan, a 65-year-old political liberal and fitness enthusiast, be most likely to have?
- "People who exercise regularly are very extraverted."
  - "All political liberals are advocates of a reduced defense budget."
  - "Young people today have no sense of responsibility."
  - "Older people are lazy."

#### Aggression

**Objective 45-3:** Explain how psychology's definition of *aggression* differs from everyday usage, and identify the biological factors that make us more prone to hurt one another.

24. Aggressive behavior is defined by psychologists as \_\_\_\_\_.
- Thus, psychologists \_\_\_\_\_ (do/do not) consider assertive salespeople to be aggressive.

25. Like other behaviors, aggression emerges from the interaction of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
26. Today, most psychologists \_\_\_\_\_ (do/do not) consider human aggression to be instinctive.
27. In humans, aggressiveness \_\_\_\_\_ (varies/does not vary) greatly from culture to culture, era to era, and person to person.
28. That there are genetic influences on aggression can be shown by the fact that many species of animals have been \_\_\_\_\_ for aggressiveness.
29. Twin studies suggest that genes \_\_\_\_\_ (do/do not) influence human aggression. One genetic marker of those who commit the most violence is the \_\_\_\_\_ chromosome. Studies of violent criminals reveal diminished activity in the brain's \_\_\_\_\_, which play an important role in controlling \_\_\_\_\_.
30. In humans and animals, aggression is facilitated by \_\_\_\_\_ systems, which are in turn influenced by \_\_\_\_\_, alcohol, and other substances in the blood.
31. The aggressive behavior of animals can be manipulated by altering the levels of the hormone \_\_\_\_\_. When this level is \_\_\_\_\_ (increased/decreased), aggressive tendencies are reduced.
32. High levels of testosterone correlate with \_\_\_\_\_, low tolerance for \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_. Among teenage boys and adult men, high testosterone also correlates with \_\_\_\_\_, hard \_\_\_\_\_ responses to \_\_\_\_\_. Although testosterone heightens aggressiveness, aggression \_\_\_\_\_ (increases/decreases) testosterone level.
33. One drug that unleashes aggressive responses to provocation is \_\_\_\_\_.

**Objective 45-4:** Outline psychological and social-cultural triggers of aggression.

34. According to the \_\_\_\_\_ principle, inability to achieve a goal leads to anger, which may generate aggression.
35. Other aversive stimuli can provoke hostility, including \_\_\_\_\_.
36. Aggressive behavior can be learned through \_\_\_\_\_, as shown by the fact that people use aggression where they've found it pays, and through \_\_\_\_\_ of others.
37. Parent-training programs often advise parents to avoid \_\_\_\_\_ violence by screaming and hitting. One \_\_\_\_\_ program with juvenile offenders and gang members and their parents has been successful in bringing down the youths' re-arrest rates.
38. Crime rates are higher in countries in which there is a large disparity between those who are \_\_\_\_\_ and those who are \_\_\_\_\_. High violence rates also are typical of cultures and families in which there is minimal \_\_\_\_\_.
39. Repeatedly viewing on-screen violence may create \_\_\_\_\_ to which people respond when they are in new situations or are uncertain how to act.
40. The "rape myth" is the mistaken idea that \_\_\_\_\_ Most rapists \_\_\_\_\_ (accept/do not accept) this myth.

Comment on the impression of women that pornography frequently conveys and the effects this impression has on attitudes and behavior.

Summarize the findings of the study in which undergraduates viewed either sexually explicit films or nonerotic films.

41. Experiments have shown that, among other factors, depictions by the media of \_\_\_\_\_ most directly affect men's acceptance and performance of aggression against women.
42. Violence on television tends to \_\_\_\_\_ people to cruelty and \_\_\_\_\_ them to respond aggressively when they are provoked.
43. Kids who play a lot of violent video games see the world as more \_\_\_\_\_, get into more \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, and get worse \_\_\_\_\_.
44. Research studies of the impact of violent video games \_\_\_\_\_ (confirm/disconfirm) the idea that we feel better if we "blow off steam" by venting our emotions. Playing violent video games \_\_\_\_\_ (increases/decreases) aggressive thoughts, emotions, and behaviors.
45. Many factors contribute to aggression, including \_\_\_\_\_ factors, such as an increase in testosterone; \_\_\_\_\_ factors, such as frustration; and \_\_\_\_\_ factors, such as deindividuation.

#### APPLICATIONS:

46. Summarizing his report on the biology of aggression, Sam notes that
  - a. biology does not significantly influence aggression.
  - b. when one identical twin has a violent temperament, the other member of the twin pair rarely does.
  - c. hormones and alcohol influence the neural systems that control aggression.
  - d. testosterone reduces dominance behaviors in animals.
47. After waiting in line for an hour to buy concert tickets, Teresa is told that the concert is sold out. In her anger she pounds her fist on the ticket counter, frightening the clerk. Teresa's behavior is best explained by
  - a. evolutionary psychology.
  - b. deindividuation.
  - c. reward theory.
  - d. the frustration-aggression principle.

#### Terms and Concepts to Remember

1. **Prejudice** is an unjustifiable (and usually negative) attitude toward a group and its members.
2. A **stereotype** is a generalized (sometimes accurate but often overgeneralized) belief about a group of people.
3. **Discrimination** is unjustifiable negative behavior toward a group and its members.
4. The **just-world phenomenon** is a manifestation of the commonly held belief that good is rewarded and evil is punished. The logic is indisputable: "If I am rewarded, I must be good."
5. The **ingroup** refers to the people and groups with whom we share a common identity.
6. The **outgroup** refers to the people and groups that are excluded from our ingroup.
7. The **ingroup bias** is the tendency to favor our own group.
8. The **scapegoat theory** proposes that prejudice provides an outlet for anger by finding someone to blame.
9. The **other-race effect** is our tendency to recall the faces of our own race more accurately than those of other races.
10. **Aggression** is any physical or verbal behavior intended to hurt or destroy.
11. The **frustration-aggression principle** states that aggression is triggered when people become angry because their efforts to achieve a goal have been blocked.
12. A **social script** is a culturally specific model of how to behave in various situations.