Not all participants had a poor relationship with their parents, or grew up in an overly strict environment.

**Explanations of independent behaviour:** Resisting the pressure to conform and obey

- Asch’s, Hofling’s and Milgram’s studies all had a small number of people who withstood the pressure to conform or be obedient. Independent behaviour refers to resisting pressure to conform (to majority influence) and to obey authority figures (disobedience).

**Social support:**

Being in the presence of an individual resisting social pressure increases the likelihood of others resisting that pressure.

- Milgram (disobedient role models) - A disobedient role model allowed an individual to be more confident in resisting the temptation to obey. The defiance meant the participants’ obedience dropped to 10%.
- Asch (role of an ally) - Conformity levels dropped to 5.5% as another person giving the supporting answer increases their independence and confidence.

**Locus of control:**

Locus of control is the perception we have of our control over our own behaviour.

*Internal locus of control* means a person is more independent, more likely to resist the pressures of conformity and obedience. They believe their behaviour is the result of their own effort and decisions.

*External locus of control* means a person is less independent, less likely to resist the pressures of conformity and obedience. They believe their behaviour is determined by fate, luck or other external factors.

**Research evidence into locus of control and resisting social influence** -

Not all research supports the link between locus of control and resistance to obedience. Twenge (2004) analysed data from American obedience studies over a 42 year period (from 1960 to 2002). The data showed that over the years, people have become more resistant to obedience, and also more have an external locus of control. If resistance was linked to an internal locus of control, we would expect more people to become internal. This challenges the link between internal locus of control and increasing resistant behaviour. Although, it is possible the results are due to a changing society.

Strickland (1984) found that African-American college students who participated in civil rights activities in the 1960s were higher on internal locus of control than students who did not participate.

Anderson (1978) found that group members possessing high internal locus of control were more likely to emerge as leaders.

**Minority influence:**