**Locus of control**

**High internal locus of control: A person believes theyre behaviour is caused primarly by their own personal decisions and efforts.**

**High external locus of control: the person believes that their behaviour is caused primarly by fate, luck or by other external circumstances.**

**Research:**

**Anderson and Schneier (1978) found that group members possessing an internal locus of control were more likely to emerge as leaders in their groups.**

**Evaluation:**

* **Twenge et al (2004) conducted a meta-analysis and found that young Americans increasingly believe their lives are controlled by outside forces rather than their own behaviour.**
* **Found that locus of control scores had become substantially more external in student and child samples between 1960 and 2002.**
* **Twenge et al suggest that implications of this finding are uniformly negative, as externality is correlated with poor school achievement, decreased self-control and depression.**
* **Due to most Western countries have seen dramatic social changes, including rise in divorce rates, increases in incident of violent crimes and mental health problems and suicide.**
* **Twenge et al suggest that the increase in all these factors has seen a corresponding increase in externality, as young people see many aspects of their lives as beyond their control.**