3.1 Attachment types: Ainsworth's Strange Situation and cultural variations in attachment: Test Pack

AQA 7182 · about 20 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Ainsworth and Bell (1970) developed the Strange Situation, a controlled observation used to assess the quality of an infant's attachment to their caregiver.

(a) Explain why the Strange Situation is described as a 'controlled observation'. **(3)**

(b) Outline the general procedure of the Strange Situation, including who is present. **(4)**

(Total for Question 1 is 7 marks)

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2 Van Ijzendoorn and Kroonenberg (1988) investigated cultural variations in attachment.

(a) Outline the procedure of Van Ijzendoorn and Kroonenberg's (1988) research into cultural variations in attachment. **(4)**

(b) Outline the findings of Van Ijzendoorn and Kroonenberg's research. **(4)**

(Total for Question 2 is 8 marks)

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Mark scheme · 3.1 Attachment types: Ainsworth's Strange Situation and cultural variations in attachment: Test Pack

Question 1

(a) conducted in a standardised laboratory/playroom setting rather than the infant's natural home environment oe **M1**

(a) follows a fixed, standardised sequence of episodes that is the same for every infant tested oe **A1**

(a) allowing the same set of situations/behaviours to be observed and compared systematically across different infants oe **A1**

(a) Answer: It takes place in a standardised setting, following a fixed sequence of episodes, so every infant can be compared under the same conditions.

(b) an infant, typically around 12 to 18 months old, is observed in an unfamiliar playroom together with their caregiver oe **M1**

(b) the procedure consists of a series of short episodes, around eight in total oe **A1**

(b) involving the caregiver leaving and returning, and a stranger entering the room oe **A1**

(b) trained observers watch (often through a one-way mirror) and code the infant's behaviour throughout oe **A1**

(b) Answer: An infant and caregiver are observed in an unfamiliar room through a standardised series of about eight episodes involving separations, reunions and a stranger.

Question 2

(a) conducted a meta-analysis, combining and comparing the results of numerous Strange Situation studies carried out in a range of different countries oe **M1**

(a) this allowed the proportions of secure, insecure-avoidant and insecure-resistant attachment to be compared across different countries/cultures oe **A1**

(a) the analysis also allowed comparison of variation between different studies carried out within the same country oe **A1**

(a) as well as variation between different countries oe **A1**

(a) Answer: A meta-analysis combined many Strange Situation studies from different countries, comparing attachment-type proportions both between and within countries.

(b) secure attachment was found to be the most common classification in every country studied oe **M1**

(b) however, the relative proportions of insecure-avoidant and insecure-resistant attachment varied between countries oe **A1**

(b) crucially, variation within a given country (between different studies/samples) was found to be greater than variation between different countries oe **A1**

(b) suggesting that cultural variation in attachment is more complex than a simple country-by-country comparison oe **A1**

(b) Answer: Secure attachment was most common everywhere, but insecure types varied by country, with within-country variation exceeding between-country variation.

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