# 3.6 Maternal Deprivation and the Effects of Institutionalisation: 10-minute Pack

AQA 7182 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

**Answer ALL questions.**

**1** Briefly explain one ethical issue raised by conducting longitudinal follow-up studies of previously institutionalised children, and suggest how researchers can address this issue.

**(Total for Question 1 is 3 marks)**

**2** Explain two confounding variables in the Romanian orphan studies that could make it difficult to isolate the effects of maternal deprivation specifically.

**(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)**


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# Mark scheme · 3.6 Maternal Deprivation and the Effects of Institutionalisation: 10-minute Pack

## Question 1

| | |
|---|---|
| identifies an ethical issue, e.g. potential distress from recalling adverse early experiences or discovering ongoing problems oe | **M1** |
| explains why this is an issue, e.g. discussing traumatic early history may cause psychological harm or raise sensitive matters for the child and family oe | **M1** |
| suggests a safeguard such as careful informed consent, optional participation, debriefing, providing support resources or referral to counselling and monitoring wellbeing during assessment oe | **A1** |

**Answer: An issue is that discussing early adverse experiences may cause distress; researchers should obtain careful informed consent, make participation optional, debrief participants, monitor wellbeing and provide referrals to support or counselling where needed.**

## Question 2

| | |
|---|---|
| identifies a plausible confounding variable, e.g. poor overall institutional care including malnutrition, illness, lack of cognitive stimulation or high child to caregiver ratios oe | **M1** |
| explains how this could confound results, e.g. physical malnutrition or illness could itself cause cognitive delay and small stature independently of lack of a primary attachment relationship oe | **A1** |
| identifies that preinstitutional experiences vary and could be confounding, e.g. prenatal neglect or trauma oe | **M1** |
| explains that such early experiences could influence later outcomes and are difficult to separate from the effects of institutional care alone oe | **A1** |

**Answer: Confounding variables include poor overall institutional care, such as malnutrition, illness and lack of stimulation, which can cause physical and cognitive problems independently of maternal deprivation. Preinstitutional experiences like prenatal neglect or early trauma also vary and may contribute to later deficits, making it hard to isolate the effect of deprivation specifically.**


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