3.7 The Influence of Early Attachment on Later Relationships: 10-minute Pack

AQA 7182 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Outline the concept of an internal working model as it relates to attachment and later relationships.

(Total for Question 1 is 4 marks)

2 Explain why the evidence is often correlational or retrospective and a consequence for the continuity hypothesis.

(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 3.7 The Influence of Early Attachment on Later Relationships: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

states that an internal working model is an internal mental representation of the self and others formed from early caregiver interactions oe	**M1**
explains it acts as a template for expectations about relationships and how to behave in them oe	**M1**
gives an example, e.g. a securely attached child expects caregivers to be responsive and later expects trust and intimacy in friendships or romantic relationships oe	**A1**
notes that it influences both cognitive beliefs and emotional responses in later relationships oe	**A1**

Answer: An internal working model is an internal representation of the self, others and relationships formed from early caregiver interactions; it serves as a template shaping expectations, emotions and behaviour in later friendships and adult romantic relationships, for example a securely attached child developing expectations of trust and reciprocity.

Question 2

explains that longitudinal studies are time-consuming and expensive, so many studies rely on correlational snapshots or adults' retrospective reports of childhood attachment oe	**M1**
explains that retrospective self-report is vulnerable to memory distortion and current relationship state influencing recall oe	**A1**
states the consequence: correlational/retrospective evidence cannot establish causality between early attachment and later relationship outcomes oe	**M1**
explains that this weakens strong continuity claims, because third variables or reverse causation could account for associations oe	**A1**

Answer: Because longitudinal research is costly and slow, many studies use correlational designs or adults' retrospective reports. These methods are vulnerable to memory bias and confounding variables, so they cannot prove that early attachment causes later relationship patterns; therefore claims of strict continuity must be qualified.

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