8.5 Biological, Environmental and Psychic Determinism and the Scientific Approach: 10-minute Pack

AQA 7182 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 In a classroom study, Amelia copies the answer of a popular peer after seeing that peer get praised by the teacher. Classify this as biological, environmental or psychic determinism and justify briefly.

(Total for Question 1 is 3 marks)

2 Outline biological determinism as it is taught on AQA 7182, naming one biological mechanism that can be said to 'cause' behaviour.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

3 Explain how hormonal changes could be used as a biological determinist explanation for changes in mood across adolescence, and give one evaluation point about how convincing this evidence is.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 8.5 Biological, Environmental and Psychic Determinism and the Scientific Approach: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

Environmental determinism cao	**B1**
justifies by referring to social learning/modelling and reinforcement from teacher praise oe	**M1**
explains that copying follows an observed behaviour and positive reinforcement rather than a genetic or unconscious drive oe	**A1**

Answer: Environmental determinism. Amelia models the praised peer and is reinforced by teacher approval, so learning from the environment explains the behaviour.

Question 2

defines biological determinism as behaviour caused by biological factors such as genes, hormones or neurochemicals oe	**M1**
gives one biological mechanism, e.g. genetic inheritance, testosterone levels, or neurotransmitter imbalance oe	**A1**

Answer: Biological determinism explains behaviour as the result of biological factors such as genes, hormones or neurochemicals; for example, higher testosterone levels have been linked to increased aggression.

Question 3

explains that rising hormones such as testosterone or oestrogen can alter brain function and therefore influence mood and behaviour oe	**M1**
gives an example, e.g. correlation between puberty-related hormonal changes and increased risk taking or mood swings oe	**A1**
evaluation: notes that hormonal correlations do not prove causation or that environmental factors also change during adolescence oe	**M1**
explains why this matters, e.g. because social context and peer influence could confound hormone-mood associations, limiting the strength of a biological determinist claim oe	**A1**

Answer: Hormonal changes such as rises in testosterone or oestrogen can affect neurotransmission and brain development, plausibly influencing mood and behaviour in adolescence; however, hormone data are often correlational and adolescence also involves social changes that could confound the relationship, so hormonal evidence alone is not definitive proof of biological determinism.

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