8.6 The Nature-Nurture Debate and the Interactionist Approach: 10-minute Pack

AQA 7182 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Outline one reason why it is difficult to separate the effects of genes and environment when explaining behaviour. In your answer name a concept that links the two.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 Describe one ethical issue that arises when researching epigenetic effects of childhood adversity, and explain two ways a researcher could address this issue in their study design.

(Total for Question 2 is 6 marks)

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Mark scheme · 8.6 The Nature-Nurture Debate and the Interactionist Approach: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

identifies a difficulty, e.g. gene-environment interaction where genes influence sensitivity to environments, or environmental effects on gene expression such as epigenetics oe	**B1**
briefly explains why that makes separation hard, e.g. genetic predispositions may only appear when particular environmental triggers are present oe	**B1**

Answer: Gene-environment interaction makes separation hard because genes and environment influence each other: for example, a genetic predisposition may only lead to a behaviour when an environmental trigger occurs.

Question 2

identifies an ethical issue, e.g. potential distress from recalling childhood trauma or breach of privacy due to sensitive biological data oe	**M1**
explains how it arises, e.g. asking participants about adversity may cause distress and collecting biological samples raises confidentiality concerns oe	**A1**
suggests a way to address it in design, e.g. use careful informed consent, offer support/referral, allow withdrawal, de-identify samples and store data securely oe	**M1**
explains why this is effective, e.g. de-identification protects privacy and debriefing reduces harm, increasing ethical acceptability and data quality oe	**A1**
additional point: consider special protections for vulnerable participants or use of archival/anonymous data where appropriate oe	**M1**
explains consequence, e.g. reduces need for intrusive questioning and limits risk while still allowing investigation of epigenetic markers oe	**A1**

Answer: An ethical issue is causing distress by asking about childhood adversity and handling sensitive biological data. Researchers should obtain fully informed consent, offer support and referral, allow withdrawal, de-identify and securely store samples, and consider using archival or anonymised data where possible to protect vulnerable participants and privacy.

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