9.1 Sexual Selection and Human Reproductive Behaviour: 10-minute Pack

AQA 7182 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Outline inter-sexual selection as an evolutionary mechanism in human mating, and give one example of a trait a choosing sex might prefer. Refer to the selective advantage such a preference could confer.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 Describe one real-world application or implication of evolutionary accounts of sexual selection and parental investment, and briefly evaluate a potential ethical or social issue arising from that application.

(Total for Question 2 is 6 marks)

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Mark scheme · 9.1 Sexual Selection and Human Reproductive Behaviour: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

states inter-sexual selection involves one sex choosing mates based on desirable traits in the other sex, leading to those traits being favoured over generations oe	**B1**
gives an example trait, e.g. good health/clear skin, indications of resource-holding potential, or signs of genetic quality such as facial symmetry oe	**B1**

Answer: Inter-sexual selection is mate choice by one sex for particular traits in the other, for example females preferring males with indicators of good genes or resource potential such as symmetry, health or status, which could increase offspring survival or access to resources.

Question 2

describes a real-world application or implication, e.g. informing health campaigns about mating-related risk behaviours, or guiding research into reproductive health and mate-choice influences oe	**M1**
explains how the evolutionary account leads to the application, e.g. targeting messages to groups more likely to engage in short-term mating risk behaviours oe	**A1**
identifies an ethical or social issue, e.g. risk of biological determinism being used to justify gender stereotypes or discrimination oe	**M1**
evaluates the issue, e.g. explains that policy based solely on evolutionary claims can stigmatise groups and ignore social solutions, so caution and multi-factorial approaches are needed oe	**A1**
may offer a mitigation or caveat, e.g. combine evolutionary insights with cultural and individual-level approaches so interventions are balanced oe	**M1**
explains briefly how this mitigation reduces the ethical/social risk, e.g. avoids blaming individuals and supports policies that address socio-economic contributors to behaviour oe	**A1**

Answer: Application: evolutionary ideas have been used to design public-health messages about sexual risk taking and to inform research on reproductive health by identifying who may be more likely to pursue short-term mating. Ethical issue: such accounts risk reinforcing gender stereotypes or deterministic explanations that stigmatise individuals. Mitigation: combine evolutionary insights with social and cultural approaches to avoid simplistic policies and to address broader socio-economic factors.

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