12.2 Psychological Explanations for Schizophrenia: Family and Cognitive Theory: 10-minute Pack

AQA 7182 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Identify and explain a methodological problem for family-based theories of schizophrenia.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 Outline a cognitive deficit and the symptom of schizophrenia it explains.

(Total for Question 2 is 3 marks)

3 Outline Bateson et al. double bind theory in the context of schizophrenia explanations.

(Total for Question 3 is 3 marks)

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Mark scheme · 12.2 Psychological Explanations for Schizophrenia: Family and Cognitive Theory: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

identifies a methodological problem, e.g. reliance on retrospective reports, observer bias or confusing cause and effect (correlational data) oe **M1**

explains limitation: retrospective or biased reporting may reflect current illness effects not causal family patterns, and correlational designs cannot establish causation oe **A1**

Answer: A problem is reliance on retrospective reports and correlational data: parents or patients may recall family interactions differently after illness, and such designs cannot prove family patterns caused the disorder rather than result from it.

Question 2

identifies a specific cognitive deficit, e.g. impaired central control, impaired metarepresentation, or reduced processing speed oe **M1**

states the specific symptom it explains, e.g. central control dysfunction explains disorganised speech; metarepresentation impairment explains auditory hallucinations or thought insertion oe **M1**

briefly links how the deficit produces the symptom, e.g. impaired central control produces loose associations, leading to incoherent speech oe **A1**

Answer: E.g. impaired central control is linked to disorganised speech because difficulties suppressing automatic associations lead to loose connections between ideas; impaired metarepresentation is linked to auditory hallucinations or thought insertion by causing misattribution of inner speech.

Question 3

identifies a double bind as repeated contradictory messages where a child cannot comment on the contradiction and cannot resolve the conflict oe **M1**

states that Bateson et al. proposed such communication patterns may lead to confusing thinking and disordered communication oe **M1**

links the double bind to the development of odd thought patterns or delusional beliefs as a proposed causal mechanism oe **A1**

Answer: A double bind involves repeated contradictory messages a child cannot challenge or escape, and Bateson et al. suggested such family communication can produce confusing thinking and symptoms associated with schizophrenia.

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