12.2 Psychological Explanations for Schizophrenia: Family and Cognitive Theory: Test Pack

AQA 7182 · about 15 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Outline the schizophrenogenic mother concept in the context of schizophrenia explanations.

(Total for Question 1 is 3 marks)

2 Explain one strength and one limitation of family-based explanations for schizophrenia.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

3 Application: A psychiatrist, Dr Khan, sees a patient, Mina, who reports frequent voices that comment on her actions and sometimes tell her what she is thinking. Mina also describes her home as very critical, with carers who frequently shout and accuse her of laziness. Using knowledge of family and cognitive explanations, explain which explanation(s) best account for Mina's symptoms and family context. Refer to both EE and impaired metarepresentation or another cognitive mechanism where appropriate.

(Total for Question 3 is 6 marks)

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

Mark scheme · 12.2 Psychological Explanations for Schizophrenia: Family and Cognitive Theory: Test Pack

Question 1

identifies the core idea: a mother whose cold, domineering or rejecting behaviour is implicated in causing schizophrenia in her child oe	**M1**
mentions that such parenting creates a family climate of emotional tension, secrecy or unpredictability oe	**M1**
links this family atmosphere to a proposed causal contribution to later development of schizophrenic symptoms oe	**A1**

Answer: A mother described as cold, domineering or rejecting creates a climate of emotional tension and secrecy in the family, which is suggested to contribute to the development of schizophrenia in the child.

Question 2

strength: identifies a genuine strength, e.g. family theories draw attention to psychosocial contributors and explain relapse links such as EE leading to higher relapse risk oe	**M1**
limitation: identifies a genuine limitation, e.g. family theories risk blaming parents and often lack consistent causal evidence, correlation not causation oe	**A1**

Answer: Strength: family theories highlight psychosocial contributors and help explain why high EE families are linked to higher relapse risk. Limitation: they can blame parents and rely on correlational evidence, so they do not prove that family factors cause schizophrenia.

Question 3

identifies that the voices commenting are characteristic of auditory hallucinations that can be explained by impaired metarepresentation or misattribution of inner speech oe	**M1**
explains how impaired metarepresentation leads to misattribution of inner speech to external sources, matching Mina's reported voices oe	**M1**
identifies that the described critical home environment matches high expressed emotion (EE), which is linked to increased relapse and stress for someone with schizophrenia oe	**M1**
explains how EE might worsen Mina's condition by increasing stress and reducing coping, contributing to symptom persistence or relapse oe	**M1**
integrates both explanations: cognitive mechanisms explain the content and experience of hallucinations, while high EE explains environmental stress that may maintain or exacerbate symptoms oe	**M1**
gives a clear applied conclusion that both cognitive impairment (metarepresentation) and family EE are relevant and together offer a more complete account of Mina's presentation oe	**A1**

Answer: Mina's commenting voices fit a cognitive account such as impaired metarepresentation, which causes inner speech to be misattributed as external. Her critical, hostile home fits a high EE description, which increases stress and risk of relapse. Both accounts together explain her subjective experiences and why symptoms may be maintained or worsened in her environment.

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk