17.1 The Nature of Addiction and Risk Factors: 30-minute Pack

Total Marks

AQA 7182 · about 30 minutes

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Outline genetic vulnerability as a risk factor and give one type of supporting evidence.

(Total for Question 1 is 4 marks)

2 Outline the role of stress and self-medication in addiction development and maintenance.

(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)

3 Outline family and peer social risk factors for addiction, with parental modelling and peer norms.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

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4 Apply family modelling and peer-group norms to explain Erin's developing alcohol misuse.

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

5 Identify and explain three named risk factors relevant to Yusuf's drug use.

(Total for Question 5 is 6 marks)

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Mark scheme · 17.1 The Nature of Addiction and Risk Factors: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

states that genetic vulnerability means inherited factors increase the likelihood of developing addiction oe	**M1**
explains this can involve genes affecting neurotransmitter systems, reward sensitivity or metabolic rates oe	**A1**
identifies family or twin study evidence as a type of support, e.g. higher concordance rates in identical twins or increased risk in children of addicted parents oe	**B1**
may state that twin studies compare monozygotic and dizygotic concordance to infer genetic influence oe	**B1**

Answer: Genetic vulnerability means inherited factors make someone more likely to develop an addiction, for example via genes that affect reward sensitivity or metabolism; supporting evidence includes family and twin studies showing higher concordance or risk among biological relatives, especially identical twins compared with non-identical twins.

Question 2

states that stress can increase the likelihood of initiating use and of relapse under pressure oe	**M1**
explains self-medication, where individuals use substances or behaviours to reduce negative feelings from stress oe	**A1**
links stress to maintenance, e.g. negative reinforcement where relief from stress reinforces continued use oe	**B1**
may mention chronic stress altering neurobiology, increasing vulnerability to addiction oe	**B1**

Answer: Stress increases the chance of starting and relapsing because people may use substances to cope; self-medication means using a drug or behaviour to reduce stress or negative emotions, and relief from stress acts as negative reinforcement that maintains use. Chronic stress can also change brain systems, increasing vulnerability.

Question 3

states that family and peers influence initiation and maintenance of use through modelling and norms oe	**M1**
explains parental modelling, where children imitate parents who use substances, increasing perceived acceptability oe	**A1**
explains peer-group norms, where pressure or desire to fit in leads to starting or escalating use oe	**B1**
may mention mechanisms such as social learning and reinforcement from the group oe	**B1**

Answer: Family and peers shape whether someone starts and continues use: parental modelling teaches that use is acceptable and normal, while peer-group norms and pressure encourage initiation and escalation via social learning and social reinforcement.

Question 4

identifies parental or sibling modelling as influencing Erin by showing drinking is acceptable and normal oe	**M1**
explains that observing siblings provides a behavioural template which Erin may imitate, increasing likelihood of regular use oe	**A1**
identifies peer-group norms/praise for bold behaviour as social reinforcement that encourages continued drinking oe	**B1**
explains how praise and belonging increase motivation to conform, so Erin may escalate frequency to fit in and gain approval oe	**B1**

Answer: Sibling modelling teaches Erin that drinking is normal and acceptable, which she imitates; peer praise for bold behaviour acts as social reinforcement and increases motivation to conform, so Erin is more likely to continue and escalate weekend drinking to fit in and receive approval.

Question 5

identifies stress/self-medication as a risk factor, linked to Yusuf using to reduce anxiety about deadlines oe	**M1**
explains how self-medication provides negative reinforcement by relieving stress, which maintains use oe	**A1**
identifies genetic vulnerability/family history as a risk factor, referencing his first cousin with substance dependence oe	**M1**
explains family history suggests increased inherited vulnerability or shared environment that raises Yusuf's risk oe	**A1**
identifies personality/impulsivity as a risk factor, citing Yusuf's self-description as impulsive when stressed oe	**M1**
explains impulsivity reduces self-control and increases likelihood of risky use and faster escalation to problematic levels oe	**A1**

Answer: Stress and self-medication: Yusuf uses the drug to reduce anxiety about deadlines, which negatively reinforces use and maintains it. Genetic vulnerability: a close relative with dependence suggests an inherited or shared environmental risk that raises his susceptibility. Personality, especially impulsivity: Yusuf's impulsive reactions to stress reduce self-control and make risky, repeated use and escalation more likely.

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