# 10.1 Biological Explanations of Gender Development: 10-minute Pack

AQA 7182 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

**Answer ALL questions.**

**1** Outline the meaning of a sex-role stereotype as used in gender development research.

**(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)**

**2** Explain androgyny and outline the purpose of the Bem Sex Role Inventory in measuring gender characteristics.

**(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)**

**3** Outline how prenatal hormones, including androgens and oestrogens, are said to influence gender development.

**(Total for Question 3 is 3 marks)**


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## Question 1

| | |
|---|---|
| states that a sex-role stereotype is a widely held belief about typical behaviours, traits or roles for males and females oe | **B1** |
| gives an example, e.g. the belief that males are aggressive and females are nurturing oe | **B1** |

**Answer: A sex-role stereotype is a common belief about typical behaviours or traits for men and women, for example that males are assertive and females are caring.**

## Question 2

| | |
|---|---|
| defines androgyny as possessing a balance of masculine and feminine traits rather than being strongly gender-typed oe | **M1** |
| explains that androgynous individuals score highly on both masculine and feminine trait scales, indicating flexibility in behaviour oe | **A1** |
| states BSRI is a psychometric scale developed to measure masculine, feminine and androgynous traits (a list of personality characteristics) oe | **M1** |
| explains BSRI purpose: to classify individuals as masculine, feminine, androgynous or undifferentiated based on self-ratings of traits oe | **A1** |

**Answer: Androgyny is having both masculine and feminine traits. The Bem Sex Role Inventory is a questionnaire that measures endorsement of masculine and feminine traits so people can be classified as masculine, feminine, androgynous or undifferentiated.**

## Question 3

| | |
|---|---|
| identifies androgens (e.g. testosterone) and oestrogens as important sex hormones influencing development oe | **M1** |
| explains that prenatal androgens promote male-typical physical development and influence brain organisation related to later behaviour oe | **A1** |
| states oestrogens contribute to female-typical development and that hormone levels and timing are critical during sensitive prenatal windows oe | **A1** |

**Answer: Androgens such as testosterone promote male-typical physical and neural development prenatally, while oestrogens contribute to female-typical development; the levels and timing of these hormones during sensitive periods influence later sex-typical anatomy and behaviour.**


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