# 9.3 Filter Theory of Relationship Formation: Test Pack

AQA 7182 · about 15 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

**Answer ALL questions.**

**1** Define the filter theory of relationship formation and name the originators.

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

**2** Identify the three main filters in the filter theory.

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

**3** Outline similarity in attitudes as an early-stage filter and why it matters.

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

**4** Explain how online partner selection affects the role of social demography as a filter.

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


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## Question 1

states that filter theory was proposed by Kerckhoff and Davis (1962) or Kerckhoff and Davis 1962 oe **B1**

states the basic idea that people pass through filters, such as social demography, similarity in attitudes and complementarity, when forming relationships oe **B1**

**Answer: Kerckhoff and Davis (1962) proposed filter theory: potential partners are screened through successive filters, such as social demography, similarity in attitudes early on, and complementarity of needs later, determining who becomes close.**

## Question 2

identifies social demography (proximity, social class, religion, etc.) oe **B1**

identifies similarity in attitudes and complementarity of needs oe **B1**

**Answer: The three main filters are social demography, similarity in attitudes, and complementarity of needs.**

## Question 3

states that similarity in attitudes is the second filter and is important in early stages of a relationship oe **M1**

explains that shared attitudes make communication easier and increase liking, facilitating the development of a relationship oe **A1**

gives an example such as similar political or leisure interests encouraging closeness in the early phase oe **A1**

**Answer: Similarity in attitudes is the second filter and is central early on because shared beliefs and values make interaction smoother, increase mutual liking and provide common ground for a developing relationship.**

## Question 4

states that online platforms increase contact across distances and social groups, weakening proximity and some demographic barriers oe **M1**

explains that this means social demography is less effective in limiting the partner pool because algorithms and virtual spaces connect people who would not otherwise meet oe **A1**

gives a concrete example such as people meeting partners from other regions, religions or social classes through dating apps or niche online forums oe **M1**

explains the implication, that the theory may need updating to account for reduced importance of physical proximity in modern partner selection oe **A1**

**Answer: Online dating reduces the impact of social demography because apps and social networks connect people across geographical and social boundaries; for example, a person might find a partner from a different city or faith group through a dating app, so proximity is no longer the main limiter of the partner pool.**


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