9.4 Social Exchange Theory and Equity Theory of Romantic Relationships: 10-minute Pack

AQA 7182 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 In Social Exchange Theory, define the term 'costs' in the context of a romantic relationship, and give one clear example.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 Outline what is meant by the comparison level (CL) in Social Exchange Theory when explaining why people stay in or leave romantic relationships.

(Total for Question 2 is 3 marks)

3 Explain how a researcher could operationalise and measure 'rewards' and 'costs' in a quantitative study of romantic relationships. Give two specific measurement techniques and one limitation of these operationalisations.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 9.4 Social Exchange Theory and Equity Theory of Romantic Relationships: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

defines costs as negative aspects or losses experienced within a relationship, oe	**B1**
gives one appropriate example, e.g. time spent, emotional strain, arguments, loss of freedom oe	**B1**

Answer: Costs are the negative aspects or losses in a relationship, for example time demands or persistent arguments causing emotional strain.

Question 2

states that CL is the standard of expected rewards minus costs based on past experiences and social norms oe	**M1**
explains that individuals judge their current relationship against this expectation, so if outcomes exceed CL they are satisfied oe	**A1**
notes that CL is formed from previous relationships and cultural expectations, influencing relationship satisfaction oe	**A1**

Answer: CL is an individual's standard of expected rewards relative to costs, based on past relationships and social norms; if current outcomes exceed the CL the person feels satisfied.

Question 3

gives one specific measurement technique for rewards, e.g. self report questionnaire rating emotional support, satisfaction, frequency of positive interactions oe	**M1**
gives one specific measurement technique for costs, e.g. time-use diaries, reports of arguments, standardised stress or burden scales oe	**M1**
explains how these give quantitative data, e.g. Likert scales or counts can be analysed and compared oe	**A1**
states a limitation, e.g. subjective bias in self reports, difficulty capturing intangible rewards, or reduction of complex experiences to single scores oe	**A1**

Answer: Rewards could be measured by self report questionnaires rating emotional support or frequency of positive interactions; costs by time-use diaries or standardised stress scales counting arguments or burden. These provide quantitative Likert or count data, but are limited by subjective bias and by reducing complex, qualitative features to simple scores.

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