9.5 Rusbult's Investment Model of Commitment in Relationships: Test Pack

AQA 7182 · about 15 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Outline what is meant by 'satisfaction level' in Rusbult's investment model of commitment, in the context of romantic relationships.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 Outline one real world application of Rusbult's investment model for relationship counselling or interventions aimed at reducing breakups.

(Total for Question 2 is 3 marks)

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3 Describe the key finding from Le and Agnew's meta-analysis that supports Rusbult's investment model, naming the type of evidence used.

(Total for Question 3 is 3 marks)

4 A cross-cultural study tests the investment model in two countries. Suggest one reason why the model might show different strength of association with commitment in collectivist versus individualist cultures, and explain the implication for generalisability.

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 9.5 Rusbult's Investment Model of Commitment in Relationships: Test Pack

Question 1

states that satisfaction level refers to the degree to which a partner's needs and expectations are met in the relationship oe **B1**

may refer to comparison of rewards versus costs experienced within the relationship oe **B1**

Answer: Satisfaction level is how well the relationship meets a partner's needs and expectations, often judged by comparing perceived rewards with costs.

Question 2

identifies an application, e.g. counsellors can help partners increase perceived investments, build shared projects or social ties, or reduce focus on alternatives oe **M1**

explains how this could reduce breakups by increasing perceived cost of leaving or enhancing commitment oe **A1**

may give a brief example such as planning joint goals, strengthening social support networks, or reframing memories to enhance feeling of investment oe **A1**

Answer: Counsellors could use the model to strengthen commitment by encouraging couples to build shared projects, deepen social ties and remind each partner of the investments they have made, or by addressing perceptions of attractive alternatives. This increases perceived cost of leaving and can reduce breakups, for example by helping couples create joint plans or reinforce shared memories.

Question 3

identifies that Le and Agnew conducted a meta-analysis of many studies across cultures, sexes and sexual orientations oe **M1**

states the meta-analysis found satisfaction, alternatives and investment were reliably associated with commitment across samples oe **A1**

may note that the effect was robust, supporting the model's generalisability oe **A1**

Answer: Le and Agnew performed a meta-analysis of many studies across cultures, sexes and sexual orientations and found that satisfaction, comparison with alternatives and investment size were all reliably associated with commitment, supporting the model's cross-sample validity.

Question 4

suggests a plausible cultural difference, e.g. collectivist cultures value family and social ties more, so investments in shared social networks may be more influential oe **M1**

explains that in individualist cultures personal satisfaction and alternatives may weigh more heavily, reducing the relative influence of investments oe **A1**

states the implication for generalisability, e.g. the model may vary in predictive power across cultures and should not be assumed universal without cross-cultural validation oe **M1**

explains that Le and Agnew's meta-analysis helps assess this by pooling diverse samples but primary-study variation still matters for conclusions oe **A1**

Answer: In collectivist cultures, investments in shared social networks and family obligations may weigh more heavily, strengthening the model's association with commitment. In individualist cultures, personal satisfaction and available alternatives may be more influential. This suggests the model's predictive power may vary with culture and so generalisability requires careful cross-cultural validation; Le and Agnew's meta-analysis helps test this but variation between primary studies still affects conclusions.

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