1.6 The Nature versus Nurture Debate: 10-minute Pack

AQA 8192 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Show your understanding by using sociological vocabulary and, where asked, your own examples.

1 State one reason a nature-only explanation of human behaviour is generally seen as incomplete by sociologists.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 Explain why sociologists are careful to avoid presenting biology as having no influence on human behaviour at all.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

3 Define the terms 'nature' and 'nurture' as they are used in this debate.

(a) Define 'nature' in this context. **(2)**

(b) Define 'nurture' in this context. **(2)**

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 1.6 The Nature versus Nurture Debate: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

identifies a genuine reason, e.g. behaviour patterns vary significantly between different cultures and historical periods, which a purely biological explanation struggles to account for **B1**

brief development, e.g. this variation is better explained by differences in socialisation and culture than by genetics **B1**

Answer: Behaviour patterns vary significantly between different cultures and historical periods, which a purely biological explanation struggles to account for; this variation is better explained by differences in socialisation and culture.

Question 2

identifies that there is genuine scientific evidence, such as from twin studies and some early-infancy observations, suggesting biology plays some part in human behaviour **B1**

development, e.g. dismissing biology entirely would misrepresent the evidence and would not accurately reflect how most sociologists and scientists actually understand the debate today **B1**

Answer: There is genuine scientific evidence, such as from twin studies, suggesting biology plays some part in behaviour, so dismissing it entirely would misrepresent the evidence and how most sociologists and scientists actually understand the debate.

Question 3

(a) identifies 'nature' as the influence of biology, genetics or inherited instinct on behaviour (oe) **B1**

(a) development, e.g. a nature-based explanation says behaviour is present from birth or determined by biological factors **B1**

(a) Answer: Nature refers to the influence of biology, genetics or inherited instinct on behaviour; a nature-based explanation says behaviour is present from birth or determined by biological factors.

(b) identifies 'nurture' as the influence of social experience, upbringing and socialisation on behaviour (oe) **B1**

(b) development, e.g. a nurture-based explanation says behaviour is learned through interaction with family, culture and wider society **B1**

(b) Answer: Nurture refers to the influence of social experience, upbringing and socialisation on behaviour; a nurture-based explanation says behaviour is learned through interaction with family, culture and society.

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