

# Oxford Revise | AQA A Level Psychology | Answers

## Chapter 9

All exemplar answers given would achieve full marks or the top level.

**1. Marks for this question: AO1 = 1**

Intra-psychic, dyadic, social, grave dressing.

**2. Marks for this question: AO2 = 6**

This question is level-marked:

Level	Marks	Description
3	5–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Knowledge of filter theory is clear and generally well detailed.</li> <li>Application is mostly clear and effective.</li> <li>The answer is generally coherent with appropriate use of specialist terminology.</li> </ul>
2	3–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Knowledge of filter theory is evident.</li> <li>There is some effective application.</li> <li>The answer lacks clarity in places.</li> <li>Specialist terminology is used appropriately on occasions.</li> </ul>
1	1–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Knowledge of filter theory is limited.</li> <li>Application is either absent or inappropriate.</li> <li>The answer as a whole lacks clarity and has inaccuracies.</li> <li>Specialist terminology is either absent or inappropriately used.</li> </ul>
	0	No relevant content.

**Possible AO2 application:**

- Chihiro and Patrick met because of the first filter of social demography – they went to the same university so they lived in the same place, had a similar educational background and were both students.
- They stayed together for 18 months because of the second filter of similarity of attitudes – they chose the same degree, both liked Mexican food, and had the same values as they volunteered at the food bank. Similarity of attitudes is the biggest predictor of a relationship becoming stable.
- Patrick is unhappy in the relationship and asked to separate because they have moved on to the third filter, complementarity of needs – they are not complementing each other. They live in the same shared house and have not pursued careers in environmental science. For the relationship to succeed they should provide what the other doesn't have. E.g. if one of them was pursuing a career and the other was providing support at home, the theory predicts they would have a better chance of staying together.

Credit other relevant applications.

**3. Marks for this question: AO1 = 4**

This question is level-marked:

Level	Marks	Description
2	3–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge of the absorption addiction model of parasocial relationships is clear and mostly accurate.</li> <li>• The material is applied appropriately.</li> <li>• The answer is generally coherent with effective use of specialist terminology.</li> </ul>
1	1–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge of the absorption addiction model of parasocial relationships is briefly stated with little elaboration.</li> <li>• The answer may include inaccuracies and be poorly organised.</li> <li>• Specialist terminology is either absent or inappropriately used.</li> </ul>
	0	No relevant content.

**Possible AO1 content:**

- The absorption addiction model aims to explain why people engage in the deeper levels of parasocial relationships.
- People may become ‘absorbed’ (preoccupied with focusing on their celebrity) as a substitute for a lack of fulfilment in their real relationships or to escape the reality of a distressing situation, such as a parental divorce.
- High levels of absorption may lead to addiction, where the need to focus on their favourite celebrity consumes and controls someone, moving people into the deeper levels of a parasocial relationship.

Credit other relevant material.

**4. Marks for this question: AO3 = 3**

**3 marks** for a clear, coherent strength or limitation of the attachment theory of parasocial relationships, using appropriate terminology.

**2 marks** for a strength or limitation of the attachment theory of parasocial relationships that lacks some clarity or detail.

**1 mark** for a brief or muddled strength or limitation of the attachment theory of parasocial relationships.

**Possible AO3 application:**

- A study of 381 adults found that attachment type was significant in parasocial bereavement (experiencing the same responses to the loss of a real friend); insecure-resistant participants anticipated the most negative reactions to their favourite TV character being taken off air.
- A study on attachment type and celebrity-related attitudes found those with insecure attachments were no more likely to form parasocial relationships with celebrities than those with secure attachments.

Credit any valid strength or limitation.

**5. Marks for this question: AO1 = 4**

This question is level-marked:

Level	Marks	Description
2	3–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Knowledge of what is meant by ‘investment’ in Rusbult’s investment model of commitment is clear and accurate.</li> <li>The answer is mostly coherent with effective use of specialist terminology.</li> </ul>
1	1–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Knowledge of what is meant by ‘investment’ in Rusbult’s investment model of commitment is briefly stated with little elaboration.</li> <li>The answer may include inaccuracies and be poorly organised.</li> <li>Specialist terminology is either absent or inappropriately used.</li> </ul>
	0	No relevant content.

**Possible AO1 content:**

- Investment feeds into the commitment level, which partly determines whether someone will maintain or leave the relationship.
- Investments are the resources that are associated with the relationship that would be lost (or negatively changed) if the relationship ended.
- Intrinsic investments are resources that a person directly brings to the relationship, such as money, possessions, energy, and self-disclosures.
- Extrinsic investments are resources that partners have made together within the relationship, such as possessions (house, car, etc.), children, mutual friends, and shared memories.
- High investment can explain why someone will stay in a relationship even if they are not satisfied.

Credit other relevant material.

**6. Marks for this question: AO2 = 2**

**2 marks** for a clear, coherent explanation of Charlie was able to ask Jamal on a date on social media but not face-to-face, referring to concepts from virtual relationships.

**1 mark** for a brief or muddled explanation of why Charlie was able to ask Jamal on a date on social media but not face-to-face, referring to concepts from virtual relationships.

**Possible AO2 application:**

- Charlie had gates that prevented him from asking Jamal on a date in real life.
- Charlie’s gates are that he is shy and goes red when he sees Jamal face to face.
- Online there is an absence of gates that allows Charlie to reach out to Jamal.
- Sending a friend request is easier for Charlie than speaking face to face.
- Jamal can’t see if Charlie goes red in online communication.
- The absence of gating online allows the relationship to begin.

Credit other relevant applications.

**7. Marks for this question: AO3 = 6**

This question is level-marked:

Level	Marks	Description
3	5–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluation of physical attractiveness as a factor affecting attraction is thorough and effective.</li> <li>The answer is clear, coherent, and focused.</li> <li>Specialist terminology is used effectively.</li> </ul>
2	3–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluation of physical attractiveness as a factor affecting attraction is evident but there are occasional inaccuracies/omissions.</li> <li>The answer lacks clarity in places.</li> <li>Specialist terminology is used appropriately on occasions.</li> </ul>
1	1–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluation of physical attractiveness as a factor affecting attraction is limited.</li> <li>The answer lacks clarity and organisation.</li> <li>Specialist terminology is either absent or inappropriately used.</li> </ul>
	0	No relevant content.

**Possible AO3 evaluation:**

- Researchers found that objective ratings of wives' attractiveness were positively related to their husbands' levels of satisfaction over at least the first four years of marriage. However, objective ratings of husbands' attractiveness were not related to their wives' marital satisfaction at the beginning of the relationship or over time.
- A lack of physical attractiveness may be overcome by other desirable qualities, such as wealth, status, or kindness. People can attract others of a much higher physical attractiveness by compensating with these other assets (complex matching).
- Evidence for the halo effect: physically attractive people were attributed positive traits, including political knowledge, even when participants knew the attractive people didn't have political expertise.
- A meta-analysis of actual romantic couples provided strong support for the matching hypothesis. The analysis of 17 studies found a strong positive correlation between the attractive ratings of romantic partners.

Credit other relevant evaluations.

**8. Marks for this question: AO1 = 4**

This question is level-marked:

Level	Marks	Description
2	3–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Knowledge of the social exchange theory of romantic relationships is clear and accurate.</li> <li>The answer is mostly coherent with effective use of specialist terminology.</li> </ul>

1	1–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge of the social exchange theory of romantic relationships is briefly stated with little elaboration.</li> <li>• The answer may include inaccuracies and be poorly organised.</li> <li>• Specialist terminology is either absent or inappropriately used.</li> </ul>
	0	No relevant content.

**Possible AO1 content:**

- Social exchange theory weighs the rewards a person gains from their relationship against the costs incurred, to determine whether the relationship will be maintained.
- For a relationship to be maintained it must be profitable, so the benefits should outweigh the costs. Possible profits/losses (depending on whether someone is giving/receiving what they want): time, money, intimacy, gifts, emotional effort, having a family, companionship, etc.
- The comparison level means comparing a current partner to all previous partners and expectations of what a relationship should be; if a partner doesn't compare favourably, the relationship will end.
- The comparison level for alternatives includes everything from the comparison level plus comparing a partner to possible attractive alternatives. These alternatives include another partner, a career, or more time with friends and family.
- If someone is completely satisfied in their current relationship, they may not even notice the alternatives. If someone is not, then they weigh up the profitability of the alternative compared to the costs of leaving their current partner.

Credit other relevant material.

**9. Marks for this question: AO1 = 3, AO2 = 2, AO3 = 3**

This question is level-marked:

Level	Marks	Description
4	7–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge of evolutionary explanations for partner preferences is accurate with some detail.</li> <li>• Application is effective.</li> <li>• Discussion is thorough and effective.</li> <li>• Minor detail and/or expansion of argument is sometimes lacking.</li> <li>• The answer is clear, coherent, and focused.</li> <li>• Specialist terminology is used effectively.</li> </ul>
3	5–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge of evolutionary explanations for partner preferences is evident but there are occasional inaccuracies/omissions.</li> <li>• Application and/or discussion is mostly effective.</li> <li>• The answer is mostly clear and organised but occasionally lacks focus.</li> <li>• Specialist terminology is used appropriately.</li> </ul>

2	3–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited knowledge of evolutionary explanations for partner preferences is present. Focus is mainly on description.</li> <li>Any application/discussion is of limited effectiveness.</li> <li>The answer lacks clarity, accuracy, and organisation in places.</li> <li>Specialist terminology is used inappropriately on occasions.</li> </ul>
1	1–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Knowledge of evolutionary explanations for partner preferences is very limited.</li> <li>Application/discussion is limited, poorly focused or absent.</li> <li>The answer as a whole lacks clarity, has many inaccuracies, and is poorly organised.</li> <li>Specialist terminology is either absent or inappropriately used.</li> </ul>
	0	No relevant content.

**Possible AO1 content:**

- The theory of sexual selection says that humans are biologically programmed to look for behaviours and characteristics in the opposite sex that increase our chance of successfully mating and bringing up children to be sexually attractive adults.
- Intrasexual selection is when members of the same sex (usually male) compete to gain access to the opposite sex. The characteristics that made them successful are passed on to the next generation. Men may compete through wealth, fitness, or confidence, etc.
- Intersexual selection is when members of one sex evolve preferences for the opposite sex. Men typically want physically attractive, younger women, to give them children, while women want men with good genes and the financial resources to provide for their children.
- Both men and women have evolved to be extremely choosy in their sexual preferences for a long-term mate. They do not want to waste valuable resources on an ‘inferior’ mate who has poor genes or no resources to provide for the children. Women are particularly choosy due to their biological investment (pregnancy).
- Men have evolved a desire for short-term mating (one-night stands) because of anisogamy (the difference in sex cells between men and women). Men’s sperm can potentially impregnate thousands of women. This short-term mating increases the likelihood of passing on their genes.

**Possible AO2 application:**

- Dean wasn’t having any luck on the dating app because his profile did not display intersexual selection traits that women are biologically programmed to find attractive, such as height and wealth, which indicate good genes and an ability to provide resources to have children.
- When he corrected his profile to show he was financially well off and tall he instantly received messages because he became more attractive to women who have evolved to want these traits in line with the theory of sexual selection.

**Possible AO3 discussion:**

- The evolutionary theory of sexual selection does not account for the sexual preferences of people who don't want children, or who are from the LGBTQIA+ demographic.
- Evidence for intersexual selection from 'lonely hearts' adverts from newspapers in the 1990s: women tended to advertise their physical attractiveness and youth; men tended to advertise resources identifying themselves as successful.
- Evidence for intersexual selection from a cross-cultural study that investigated the sexual preferences of 10,000+ people from 37 cultures: women preferred men with financial prospects, while men preferred physically attractive, younger women. The study claims universality, which suggests that the preferences have evolved.
- Social and economic factors in establishing mate preferences are a limitation for evolutionary theory – a study of 37 cultures found that women selected men with high financial status in cultures where their own educational opportunities were limited.
- Research support for the short-term mating strategy of men: male and female research assistants approached strangers on a college campus and asked them if they would go to bed with them. 0% of women and 75% of men agreed.

Credit any relevant material.

**10. Marks for this question: AO1 = 3, AO3 = 5**

This question is level-marked:

Level	Marks	Description
4	7–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge of the nature of self-disclosure in virtual relationships is accurate with some detail.</li> <li>• Discussion is thorough and effective.</li> <li>• Minor detail and/or expansion of argument is sometimes lacking.</li> <li>• The answer is clear, coherent, and focused.</li> <li>• Specialist terminology is used effectively.</li> </ul>
3	5–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge of the nature of self-disclosure in virtual relationships is evident but there are occasional inaccuracies or omissions.</li> <li>• Discussion is mostly effective.</li> <li>• The answer is mostly clear and organised but occasionally lacks focus.</li> <li>• Specialist terminology is used appropriately.</li> </ul>
2	3–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited knowledge of the nature of self-disclosure in virtual relationships is present.</li> <li>• Focus is mainly on description. Any discussion is of limited effectiveness.</li> <li>• The answer lacks clarity, accuracy, and organisation in places.</li> <li>• Specialist terminology is used inappropriately on occasions.</li> </ul>

1	1–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge of the nature of self-disclosure in virtual relationships is very limited.</li> <li>• Discussion is limited, poorly focused or absent.</li> <li>• The answer as a whole lacks clarity, has many inaccuracies, and is poorly organised.</li> <li>• Specialist terminology is either absent or inappropriately used.</li> </ul>
	0	No relevant content.

**Note:** although there is a lot of possible AO1 content, you should be selective in what you include as there is only a maximum of 3 marks for AO1.

**Possible AO1 content:**

- Reduced cues theory: self-disclosure will be inhibited through online communication because a lack of social cues (e.g. tone of voice) can cause misunderstandings.
- Online anonymity leads to deindividuation, leading to people writing hurtful comments they would never say in real life, therefore causing self-disclosure to shut down.
- The hyper-personal model: self-disclosure will occur more quickly and intensely online because we can edit our messages and photos to put across the best possible version of ourselves, potentially coming across as more attractive than in real life.
- Online communication is often anonymous, meaning that what we disclose will remain confidential from our real-life social networks, giving us freedom to say what we really think.
- Deeper self-disclosure is likely to happen more quickly and is intensely satisfying.
- Relationships that develop virtually are referred to as the ‘boom and bust’ phenomenon: the excitement and intensity of the interaction (boom) will rarely last because the underlying trust is absent, and people rarely live up to the idealised version of themselves that they have put across (bust).
- In real life there are ‘gates’ to dating that prevent people from approaching others to request a date (e.g. being shy). Online communication removes gating, giving people the confidence to approach others virtually that they wouldn’t in real life.
- Absence of gating allows attraction to grow as partners learn about each other through self-disclosure in messaging, and relationships may begin.

**Possible AO3 discussion:**

- Those with Internet access at home were more likely to be in a romantic relationship than those without it: 71% compared to 35%, suggesting that the formation of relationships is changing from traditional face-to-face methods to online.
- Researchers found greatly increased activity in reward centres in the brain, such as the ventral tegmental area and nucleus accumbens, when people were talking about themselves compared to talking about someone else. This explains the motivation to self-disclose in social media.
- Contrary to the reduced-cues theory, researchers identified a range of non-verbal cues in online communication, such as emojis, acronyms, and gifs, as well as being able to manipulate the style and timing of messages. The non-verbal cues add nuance and promote self-disclosure in virtual relationships.



- Evidence for the hyper-personal model: online daters were found to self-disclose elements of their real selves in dating profiles, but they also admitted to copying other daters' ideas and images as a way of making themselves more attractive.
- Researchers found that socially anxious daters were able to express their true feelings more easily in online communication compared to face-to-face interactions. This suggests that without gates, people can approach others and form a meaningful connection because the communication goes deeper than superficial elements of, say, looks.

Credit other relevant material.

**11. Marks for this question: AO1 = 6, AO2 = 4, AO3 = 6**

This question is level-marked:

Level	Marks	Description
4	13–16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge of the equity theory of relationships is accurate and well detailed.</li> <li>• Application is effective.</li> <li>• Discussion is thorough and effective.</li> <li>• Minor detail and/or expansion of argument is sometimes lacking.</li> <li>• The answer is clear, coherent, and focused.</li> <li>• Specialist terminology is used effectively.</li> </ul>
3	9–12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge of the equity theory of relationships is evident but there are occasional inaccuracies/omissions.</li> <li>• Application and/or discussion is mostly effective.</li> <li>• The answer is mostly clear and organised but occasionally lacks focus.</li> <li>• Specialist terminology is used appropriately.</li> </ul>
2	5–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited knowledge of the equity theory of relationships is present.</li> <li>• Focus is mainly on description.</li> <li>• Any discussion and/or application is of limited effectiveness.</li> <li>• The answer lacks clarity, accuracy, and organisation in places.</li> <li>• Specialist terminology is used inappropriately on occasions.</li> </ul>
1	1–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge of the equity theory of relationships is very limited.</li> <li>• Discussion and/or application is limited, poorly focused or absent.</li> <li>• The answer as a whole lacks clarity, has many inaccuracies and is poorly organised.</li> <li>• Specialist terminology is either absent or inappropriately used.</li> </ul>
	0	No relevant content.

**Possible AO1 content:**

- Equity theory is an economic theory to determine the likelihood of partners continuing or ending their romantic relationship.
- Profitability is gained from an equitable (fair) exchange of rewards and costs.
- Satisfaction is gained from a feeling of 'fairness', where partners put in the same amount of effort and energy into the relationship that they get out of it.
- If profits are not equitable, partners may feel undesired negative emotions.
- Over-benefitted partners who receive more rewards than they put into the relationship may feel guilty, ashamed, and pity their partner.
- Under-benefitted partners who have more costs of being in the relationship than rewards may feel sad, humiliated, and angry, and may come to resent their partner.
- Their negative emotions can motivate them to either change the dynamic of the relationship to one that is fair, or to end it.
- Equity can change when couples have children. Before and after having children, couples feel more equitable in terms of domestic chores and report greater marital satisfaction. During the child-rearing years, marital satisfaction dips, with wives often feeling under-benefitted and husbands feeling over-benefitted.

**Possible AO2 application:**

- Sangeeta's relationship is not equitable. She feels under-benefitted because her husband makes no effort for a date night and leaves the childcare and housework to her. She has negative emotions of anger and resentment.
- Sangeeta's relationship may have been more equitable before she had children, but having children may have shifted Sangeeta to feeling under-benefitted and her husband to feeling over-benefitted.
- Sangeeta will be motivated to encourage her husband to put more time and effort into their relationship and if he doesn't, she will be motivated to end it.
- Anya's relationship is not equitable. She feels over-benefitted because her partner does all the household chores, buys her gifts and does exactly what she tells him. She has negative emotions of pity. She may also feel guilt and shame.
- Her negative emotions will motivate her to change things to be more equitable in the relationship, or if they don't change, then to end the relationship.

**Possible AO3 discussion:**

- A survey of 118 married couples measuring equity, found couples who perceived their marriage as equitable showed greater relationship satisfaction compared to those who felt under- or over-benefitted. This suggests that equity theory is a more valid theory than social exchange theory.
- The importance of fairness has ancient origins – female capuchin monkeys became angry if they didn't receive their prize of grapes in exchange for playing a game. If another monkey was given their prize who hadn't played the game, they became enraged.

- Not all people are ‘equity sensitive’ and need equity in a relationship to feel satisfied. ‘Benevolents’ are people happy to give more rewards than they receive, whereas ‘entitleds’ guiltlessly receive more rewards than they give.
- Women are more likely to perceive themselves as under-benefitted and feel more distressed about being under-benefitted. Women may notice inequity more due to inequity in society and/or because they are more relationship-focused than men.
- Although couples from individualist cultures were more satisfied in equitable relationships, both men and women from collectivist cultures were more satisfied when they were over-benefitted. Equity theory is therefore an imposed etic that can’t account for cultural differences.

Credit other relevant material.

**12. Marks for this question: AO1 = 6, AO3 = 10**

This question is level-marked:

Level	Marks	Description
4	13–16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge of self-disclosure and/or filter theory as factors affecting attraction is accurate and generally well detailed.</li> <li>• Discussion is thorough and effective.</li> <li>• Minor detail and/or expansion of argument is sometimes lacking.</li> <li>• The answer is clear, coherent, and focused.</li> <li>• Specialist terminology is used effectively.</li> </ul>
3	9–12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge of self-disclosure and/or filter theory as factors affecting attraction is evident but there are occasional inaccuracies/omissions.</li> <li>• Discussion is mostly effective.</li> <li>• The answer is mostly clear and organised but occasionally lacks focus.</li> <li>• Specialist terminology is used appropriately.</li> </ul>
2	5–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited knowledge of self-disclosure and/or filter theory as factors affecting attraction is evident.</li> <li>• Focus is mainly on description. Any discussion is of limited effectiveness.</li> <li>• The answer lacks clarity, accuracy, and organisation in places.</li> <li>• Specialist terminology is used inappropriately on occasions.</li> </ul>
1	1–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge of self-disclosure and/or filter theory as factors affecting attraction is very limited.</li> <li>• Discussion is limited, poorly focused or absent.</li> <li>• The answer as a whole lacks clarity, has many inaccuracies, and is poorly organised.</li> <li>• Specialist terminology is either absent or inappropriately used.</li> </ul>
	0	No relevant content.

**Possible AO1 content for self-disclosure as a factor affecting attraction:**

- Self-disclosure is when a person reveals personal information to another.
- The more self-disclosure, the greater the attraction because it builds trust and understanding of the other person.
- The type of self-disclosure influences attraction: surface-level disclosures (e.g. taste in music) won't be as influential as deeper types (e.g. ambitions, disappointments, previous relationships).
- Self-disclosure should happen gradually and reciprocally for attraction to grow.
- Attraction may stop if:
  - too much personal information is revealed too quickly; indiscriminate self-disclosure makes people feel they are not special
  - self-disclosure is not reciprocated; this causes feelings of vulnerability and discourages conversation
  - a person doesn't allow reciprocation (just talks about themselves); the other person may become bored and feel their date is not interested in them.
- Social penetration theory refers to the gradual and reciprocal exchange of information – partners can penetrate more deeply into each other's lives, learn their deepest thoughts, and understand each other better.

**Possible AO3 discussion for self-disclosure as a factor affecting attraction:**

- Evidence for two types of self-disclosure: a meta-analysis found that people who self-disclosed on a deeper level were liked more than those who disclosed at a more superficial level.
- Self-disclosure online can cause the 'boom and bust' phenomenon. The self-disclosure is faster and deeper, causing attraction and the relationship to become intense very quickly (boom), but trust and knowledge of the person is lacking, causing it to end (bust).
- Self-disclosure may not always increase satisfaction in a relationship. In relationships that are breaking down, partners may disclose very intimate and personal information, but sometimes this is not enough to reconcile.
- In different cultures, the level of acceptable self-disclosure varies. E.g. people from China disclose less information about sexual thoughts and feelings than those in the USA. Both approaches are linked to relationship satisfaction, suggesting that self-disclosure is moderated by cultural differences as a factor affecting attraction.
- Our desire for self-disclosure to be gradual is so important that it applies to our liking for reality TV contestants. Researchers found that viewers preferred reality TV contestants who self-disclosed gradually, which highlights the importance of following the norms of self-disclosure for attraction to grow.

**Possible AO1 content for filter theory as a factor affecting attraction:**

- Filter theory suggests we are attracted to romantic partners based on a series of filters that narrows down the field of available people.
- The filters are in an order and explain attraction from first meeting, through to long-term relationships.
- Filter 1 is social demography. This refers to variables that predict the likelihood of partners meeting in the first place, e.g. age, social class, location, ethnicity, etc. People are more likely to meet people they share several social demographics with, and having more in common with a potential partner can increase initial feelings of attraction.
- Filter 2 is similarity in attitudes. Having similar attitudes and values is important for the first 18 months of the relationship and is the best predictor of the relationship becoming stable.
- Filter 3 is complementarity of needs. For relationships lasting longer than 18 months, partners filter based on whether they complement each other's needs. E.g. the need for financial resources and the complementary need to provide. When partners meet each other's needs, they form a 'whole' and the relationship is harmonious.

**Possible AO3 discussion for filter theory as a factor affecting attraction:**

- Many studies have failed to replicate the original research that was used to formulate filter theory. An investigation in 1970 studied 330 couples using the same procedures as the original 1962 study and found no evidence for the similarity or complementarity components.
- Lack of temporal validity: society has changed since these studies, with the formation of many relationships shifting online. This has reduced the importance of sharing social demographics in meeting people.
- A speed-dating event measured actual and perceived similarity using a questionnaire; perceived rather than actual similarity predicted romantic attraction for others. This counters filter theory, which identifies that real similarity in attitudes and values are important in attraction.
- An investigation of singles on a dating site found more evidence for similarity of attitudes and values than complementarity. The participants indicated they would prefer complementary characteristics, but in reality, there were many strong correlations between their own personality and their ideal partner's personality.
- Researchers suggest there is a real value to the filtering process. Partners share information that allows them to make a prediction about the long-term value of the relationship. A person may then end a relationship before becoming too invested.

Credit other relevant material.

## Questions on previous content

### 1. Marks for this question: AO1 = 2

**2 marks** for a clear, coherent outline of the term heredity using appropriate terminology.

**1 mark** for a brief or muddled outline of the term heredity.

#### Possible AO1 content:

- Heredity means that behaviours can be inherited from our biological parents' genes.
- Parents pass on genes that determine not only physical characteristics, but psychological characteristics such as aggressive behaviours, addiction, and schizophrenia.

### 2. Marks for this question: AO3 = 3

**3 marks** for a clear, coherent limitation of environmental determinism in explaining behaviour, using appropriate terminology.

**2 marks** for a limitation of environmental determinism in explaining behaviour that lacks some clarity or detail.

**1 mark** for a brief or muddled limitation of environmental determinism in explaining behaviour.

#### Possible AO3 evaluation:

- If behaviour was largely environmentally determined, then we would expect the concordance rates to be very high for both MZs and DZs due to their similar upbringings, but they aren't. Concordance rates tend to be higher for MZs than DZs, indicating a biological component to behaviour and questioning the influence of the environment on determining behaviour.
- Social learning theory identifies that behaviour is largely determined by imitating significant role models and vicarious reinforcements. However, there are also mediational (cognitive) processes involved, so there is also an element of free will in determining behaviour.
- Skinner claimed that free will is an illusion and that behaviour is determined by classical and operant conditioning and reinforcement history.

Credit any valid limitation.

### 3. Marks for this question: AO1 = 4, AO2 = 2

This question is level-marked:

Level	Marks	Description
3	5–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge of the nomothetic approach to psychological investigation is clear and generally well detailed.</li> <li>• Application to the topic is mostly clear and effective.</li> <li>• The answer is generally coherent with appropriate use of specialist terminology.</li> </ul>

2	3–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge of the nomothetic approach to psychological investigation is evident.</li> <li>• There is some effective application to the topic.</li> <li>• The answer lacks clarity in places.</li> <li>• Specialist terminology is used appropriately on occasions.</li> </ul>
1	1–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge of the nomothetic approach to psychological investigation is limited.</li> <li>• Application to the topic is either absent or inappropriate.</li> <li>• The answer as a whole lacks clarity and has inaccuracies.</li> <li>• Specialist terminology is either absent or inappropriately used.</li> </ul>
	0	No relevant content.

**Possible AO1 content:**

- The nomothetic approach focuses on the study of large groups of people.
- It uses quantitative methods to gather numerical data, for use with statistical analysis.
- Nomothetic approaches tend to be determinist and reductionist.
- Nomothetic approaches aim to generate laws/theories of behaviour.

**Possible AO2 application:**

You can refer to any topic in Psychology from Years 1 or 2. Examples include:

- The biological approach takes a nomothetic approach when using drug trials, to draw conclusions like serotonin causing depression.
- Behaviourists experimented on hundreds of animals to develop the laws of learning theory.
- Cognitive psychologists tested large samples of people in laboratory experiments and made inferences about memory processes based on their performance.
- The nomothetic approach to investigating personality uses psychometric tests on large groups, such as Eysenck's Personality Questionnaire (which used factor analysis to produce personality types).

Credit other relevant material.