

Definitions and Concepts for AQA Psychology A-level

Option 1: Relationships

Absorption addiction model for parasocial relationships: A theory that suggests people develop parasocial relationships in order to cope with issues in their life.

Attachment theory explanation for parasocial relationships: A theory that suggests that if a child is unable to form a healthy attachment with a primary caregiver, the child will grow up to compensate with parasocial relationships.

Duck's phase model of relationship breakdown: A theory that suggests the breakdown of a relationship develops over a number of stages; the intrapsychic phase, the dyadic phase, the social phase and the grave-dressing phase.

Dyadic phase: The second phase in relationship break down which consists of a person vocally expressing their dissatisfaction with their relationship with their partner.

Equity theory: The theory that for a relationship to be stable, both partners should perceive the relationship to be fair. If a partner receives too much benefit or finds the costs too large, the relationship is more likely to fail.

Filter theory: The theory that when selecting an ideal partner, people use certain criteria to decide whether someone qualifies as a potential partner or not.

Gating: The practice of using physical markers to separate potential partners and those who are not.

Grave dressing phase: The final phase of relationship breakdown, wherein post-breakdown, a person prepares for a new relationship.

Intrapsychic phase: A phase in relationship breakdown which consists of a person internally considering their dissatisfaction with their relationship.

Matching hypothesis: The theory that people are more likely to form a relationship with someone they share common traits with.

Parasocial relationship: A relationship that develops in a one-sided fashion with someone who cannot reciprocate.

Rusbult's investment model of commitment: The theory that there are three factors that

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contribute to the commitment to a relationship: level of satisfaction, potential alternatives and romantic investment.

Self-disclosure: To share personal information with someone else in an attempt to establish trust within a relationship.

Social demography: The first filter in “filter theory”, which refers to social and cultural features of people, e.g. social background and proximity.

Social exchange theory: The theory that relationships consist of mutual cost-benefit investments. If a relationship exceeds cost and does not reap enough benefits, it may end.

Social phase: The third phase in relationship breakdown. A person expresses their dissatisfaction within their social group, causing family and friends to agree or disagree with the person. This will further the breakdown of the relationship.

