

# AQA Psychology A-level

## Topic 3: Attachment Flashcards

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# Define interactional synchrony.



## Define interactional synchrony.

Interactional synchrony is when a mother and infant reflect each other's emotions and actions in a coordinated way.



Identify Schaffer's stages of attachment.



## Identify Schaffer's stages of attachment.

- Asocial.
- Indiscriminate.
- Specific.
- Multiple.



Describe various roles of the father which research has shown us.



Describe various roles of the father which research has shown us.

- Grossman (2002) found that fathers have more of a play and stimulation role.
- Tiffany Field (1978) found fathers can be primary caregivers and adopt the behaviours of mothers.



Define an internal working model and explain its importance.





## Define an internal working model and explain its importance.

An internal working model is the mental representation a child has of how the relationship with their primary caregiver is. Bowlby believes these have a powerful effect on future relationships as internal working models serve as models for other relationships. Children will later form relationships similar to and in line with their internal working models.



Give a limitation of research into internal working models.



Give a limitation of research into internal working models.

There is a theoretical problem with research related to internal working models. Internal working models are unconscious yet the methods used to study them - self-report methods - are conscious. Therefore the self-report technique cannot really be a good method to assess them.



What method is used to measure attachment type in children?



What method is used to measure attachment types in children?

Ainsworth's strange situation.



What are the behaviours that Ainsworth uses to judge attachment?



# What are the behaviours that Ainsworth uses to judge attachment?

- Proximity seeking.
- Exploration & secure base behaviour.
- Stranger anxiety.
- Separation anxiety.
- Response to reunion.



List the episodes to the strange situation.





## List the episodes to the strange situation.

- 1) Child & mother enter unfamiliar playroom.
- 2) Child encourage to explore.
- 3) Stranger comes in and tries to interact with child.
- 4) Mother leaves child and stranger together.
- 5) Mother returns and stranger leaves.
- 6) Mother leaves.
- 7) Stranger returns.
- 8) Mother returns and is reunited with child.



List three attachment types.



## List three attachment types.

- Secure attachment (Type B).
- Insecure-avoidant (Type A).
- Insecure-resistant (Type C).



What personality will an  
insecure-resistant child tend to develop?



What personality will an insecure-resistant child tend to develop?

A controlling and argumentative personality.



What can we conclude from Harlow's research?



## What can we conclude from Harlow's research?

Monkeys have an innate, unlearned need for contact and comfort, suggesting that attachment concerns emotional security more than food. Contact comfort is associated with lower levels of stress and a willingness to explore.



Describe the two laws of Bowlby's  
monotropic theory.





## Describe the two laws of Bowlby's monotropic theory.

- Law of continuity - the more constant and predictable the relationship is with the mother, the stronger the attachment.
- Law of accumulated separation - for there to be no future problems and the attachment to be secure and healthy, there should be no separation between the mother and infant.



Define imprinting.



## Define imprinting.

Imprinting is when a young animal eventually comes to recognise another animal or a person or thing as a parent.



Give two examples of cultural variation studies into attachments.



## Give two examples of cultural variation studies into attachments.

- Van Ijzendoorn & Kroonenberg (1988) did a meta-analysis of 32 studies in 8 countries which looked into proportions of attachment types.
- Simonella et al (2014) - Italian study where the strange situation was used to measure attachment in 70 6-12 month-old babies.



Define maternal deprivation.



## Define maternal deprivation.

Describes the emotional and intellectual consequences of separation between a child and his or her mother.



Give a limitation of Bowlby's theory of maternal deprivation.





## Give a limitation of Bowlby's theory of maternal deprivation.

Bowlby failed to properly distinguish between deprivation and privation. Rutter (1981) attempts to distinguish between the two saying that privation is the failure to form an attachment in the first place whereas deprivation is the loss of an attachment after it has formed. Rutter argues that privation is more likely to lead to long-term damage rather than deprivation, as Bowlby's theory states.



Give three effects of institutionalisation.



## Give three effects of institutionalisation.

- Poor peer interactions.
- Disinhibited attachment.
- Mental retardation.



# Define social releasers.



## Define social releasers.

Social releasers are a set of innate 'cute' behaviours e.g. smiling & gripping which children elicit to activate an adult's attachment system.



Outline the learning theory explanation of attachment.



## Outline the learning theory explanation of attachment.

Through classical conditioning, attachment can start through a child learning to associate a mother with food which brings pleasure to the child. Through operant conditioning this association can be strengthened. By positive reinforcement - when a baby cries the mother feeds the baby so this reinforces the crying behaviour in the child. Also by negative reinforcement from the mother's side as the baby stops crying when the mother feeds it, the mother continues to feed the baby to prevent it crying.

