

Mark schemes

Q1.

[AO1 = 3]

3 marks for a clear, coherent and elaborated outline including reference to neural basis.

2 marks for a clear outline with some detail.

1 mark for a limited/muddled outline.

Content:

- hard-wired, inherited neural circuits/networks of neuronal connections in the brain
- activated by an external/environmental stimulus/releaser/sign stimulus
- activation triggers/releases action-specific energy to produce a fixed behavioural response – fixed action pattern
- examples to illustrate, eg male stickleback raising operculum in response to red/orange stimulus.

Credit other relevant material.

[3]

Q2.

[AO2 = 4]

Level	Mark	Description
2	3-4	Explanation of how the evolutionary explanation for aggression could be used to explain Jane's comments is clear and appropriate. There is appropriate use of specialist terminology.
1	1-2	Explanation is limited, muddled or inappropriate. Use of specialist terminology is absent or inappropriate.
	0	No relevant content.

Possible application:

- evolutionary theory states that males compete for females – Bill gets angry because he sees Jane's male friends as potential rivals – this is an example of sexual jealousy
- Bill is anxious to prevent Jane forming a relationship with other males so as to avoid cuckoldry, ie Jane being unfaithful
- Bill shows mate retention strategies, eg checking Jane's mobile is an example of male vigilance over partner's behaviour; going along on nights out is an example of direct guarding
- Jane is referring to Bill as a dominant male (strength and protectiveness)

Credit other relevant material.

[4]

Q3.**[AO3 = 6]**

For the strength, award marks as follows:

3 marks for a clear, coherent and detailed outline, using appropriate terminology.

2 marks for an outline which lacks some detail.

1 mark for a very limited/muddled outline.

Possible strengths:

- use of evidence to support evolutionary theory of aggression, eg parallels in the animal kingdom
- consistent with findings that show there are differences in aggression between males and females
- can explain many types of aggression, eg bullying to maintain a position of dominance; aggression related to power struggles at work etc.

PLUS

For the limitation, award marks as follows:

3 marks for a clear, coherent and detailed outline, using appropriate terminology.

2 marks for an outline which lacks some detail.

1 mark for a very limited/muddled outline.

Possible limitations:

- use of evidence to contradict the evolutionary theory of aggression
- difficult to test as evidence is correlational and usually involves self-report
- cannot explain cultural differences in aggression – evolutionary explanations should apply to all cultures in the same way
- presents male aggression as a natural and therefore acceptable behaviour
- implications for treatment of male aggression.

Credit other relevant strengths and limitations.

[6]