

Risk Factors in the Development of Addiction - Questions by Topic

Q1.

It is claimed that many young people start to abuse stimulants because they feel pressured into doing so by their friends.

Use your knowledge of psychology to explain how social pressure might lead a young person to start abusing stimulants.

(Total 4 marks)

Q2.

Read the item and then answer the question that follows.

Dave comes from a family of smokers. He began smoking at an early age. Now in his twenties, he has tried to stop smoking but finds it difficult, especially now that he has taken on more responsibility at work.

Briefly explain risk factors relevant to Dave's addiction to smoking.

(Total 4 marks)

Q3.

A psychologist was interested in the role of sensation-seeking in the development of addictive behaviour. She tested ten participants addicted to smoking (Group A) and ten participants who had no addictive behaviours (Group B). Each participant was given a questionnaire that measured sensation-seeking. Scores on the questionnaire are given in the table below:

Sensation seeking scores for those with addictive behaviours and for those with no addictions

Group A (Addicted to smoking)	Score on sensation-seeki ng questionnaire	Group B (No addictive behaviours)	Score on sensation-seeki ng questionnaire
1	65	1	16
2	32	2	25
3	25	3	27
4	29	4	24
5	28	5	59
6	30	6	26

7	18	7	33
8	30	8	21
9	35	9	18
10	28	10	23
Median		Median	

Complete the table by calculating the median and range for the two groups. Why did the psychologist use the median rather than the mode?

(Total 4 marks)

Q4.

Fifteen-year-old Jenny has recently started smoking. She believes that smoking will stop her putting on weight and help her to cope with stress. Most of her friends smoke and she thinks that smoking helps her to fit in with the group of popular girls, whom she sees as fun-loving and cool.

Using your knowledge of vulnerability to addiction, discuss some of the vulnerability factors that contribute to Jenny's smoking. Refer to relevant research in your answer.

(Total 16 marks)