

# **ISSUES AND DEBATES ESSAY PACK**

For AQA Psychology Paper 3

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**Q. The following comment was made by a judge at the end of a trial: 'People are in control of their behaviour and they are responsible for their actions.'**

**Discuss free will and determinism in Psychology. Refer to one or more topics you have studied. (16 marks)**

**Ans.**

Free-will is the idea that each individual has the power to make choices about their behaviour. It is reflected in the topic of [REDACTED]

Determinism suggests that behaviour is beyond the control of an individual as it is driven by external and internal forces. This is illustrated in [REDACTED]

The statement given in the question supports [REDACTED]

A strength of considering the free-will versus determinism debate is that supporting free-will can help [REDACTED]

A weakness of supporting free-will, however, is that research evidence has [REDACTED]

A strength of supporting determinism is that it helps advance psychology as a science.

Cause-effect relationships can be established between

[REDACTED]

**Q. Two friends were talking after a Psychology lesson.**

**Bilal said, "You are a good football player because you have your parents' genes." Abdullah replied, "Maybe, but my parents also took me to watch a lot of football matches and I play in two football teams."**

**Discuss what is meant by an interactionist approach to the nature-nurture debate. Refer to Bilal and Abdullah in your answer. (16 marks)**

**Ans.**

Nature is the idea that behaviour can be explained through innate factors or heredity. For example, [REDACTED]

An interactionist approach combines these two to investigate [REDACTED]

In the case of Abdullah, Bilal takes a [REDACTED]

A strength of the interactionist view is support from empirical evidence. In the case of [REDACTED]

Another strength is that research shows that separating nature and nurture is difficult. For example, in [REDACTED]

However, a weakness is that interactionism is not

**Q. Discuss levels of explanation in psychology, referring to an area of psychology you have studied. (16 marks)**

**Ans.**

In psychology, behaviours can be explained at multiple levels, beginning from

.

The highest level of explanation is the sociocultural level which attributes behaviour to

A middle level of explanation is psychological, which attributes behaviour to

Finally, a lower level of explanation is biological, which attributes behaviour to

A strength of taking a higher level of explanation towards behaviour is that

A strength of taking a lower level of explanation is that it leads to

A weakness of looking at behaviours through different levels is that they can be difficult to

[Redacted text block containing 12 lines of obscured content]

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