

Candidate 7 evidence

Social Relationships

Question 7

a) Parasocial relationships is where a person will worship and create an attachment to a celebrity, prominent person in the community or a fictional character from TV. Without chance of reciprocation.

The first stage is Entertain, which is the lowest stage. A love for them and gossip between friends. An example of this is fans of Harry Styles.

The second stage is intense- personal. Where the person will gain an interest in the celeb's personal life and interest. Believe that the celeb is their soulmate.

The final stage is Borderline pathological. This is the most intense and problematic stage. This person will spend money on the celeb. Possibly lead into illegal acts such as stalking. This person will also believe that if they meet this person that there will be reciprocation.

b) The evolutionary theory is that people look for their ideal mate to pro create and look for specific things for an ideal mate. A female will look for someone who can financially provide for both them and their offspring. have even facial features and be healthy. Whereas males look for a woman with a curvy figure and attractive to create attractive offspring.

A weakness of this study is that they don't take into account homosexual couples. They only take into account straight couples which wouldn't apply to the modern age, decreasing

the ecological validity.

Another weakness is that they don't take into account couples who don't want children. The evolutionary theory only takes into account the old-fashioned social norms of society and not the modern equality of the fact that many couples don't want to create offspring, therefore decreasing the reliability.

The theory as stated states that females only have a certain time slot to reproduce meaning that their priority is to find a long-term mate, whereas males can reproduce for a lot longer therefore they can leave their female mate whom they have already had offspring with to get with a younger female mate.

Mckenna and Bargh (2002) conducted a study to find out when an attractive person asks certain things how would the participant respond.

The 3 questions were:

- 1- would you go on a date with me?
- 2- will you go back to my apartment?
- 3- will you have sex with me?

Question 1 was 50% for both male and female. Question 2 females had 3% and the last question 0% of women said yes. This therefore supports the evolutionary theory of females wanting a partner to financially support and a long-term relationship rather than multiple short-term partners.

The reduced cues theory by Sproull and Kiesler looked into getting into a relationship over the internet. Stating that many of the main communications in a relationship are from physical cues and body language. Stating that conversation relies on 80% of body language. This therefore backs the evolutionary theory as being unable to physically see and interact with a partner will not allow any chance to see and figure out if they are a candidate to produce the right offspring.

The evolutionary theory doesn't really take into account virtual relationships. Online people who struggle with gating (a barrier stopping them from gaining a romantic relationship) allowing them to online gain a relationship as it enhances hyper-honesty and allowing them to show the traits they normally refrain from showing. Studies show that even when talking online then going to face-to-face the already developed physical attraction rarely decreases. This therefore decreases the reliability of the evolutionary theory as the initial look for attractive mates isn't enforced as the absence of gating allows unattractive people an opportunity for a committed romantic relationship.