

## SECTION C

## Issues and Debates

- 5 Ada was reading a book about a woman who became a police officer and solved an important crime. She enjoyed reading the book so much that she read it all in a single day. Ada's mum has always really enjoyed reading books and Ada had always had excellent reports from school about her reading development.

Ada's friend Daniel does not enjoy reading and never has. He told Ada that he preferred to play video games, particularly games about sport. Daniel's dad enjoys reading and playing video games. When he was younger, Daniel had been asked to read more by his school and was always given extra support for his reading development.

Evaluate the extent to which human behaviour, such as the ability to read, can be explained by biological psychology.

You must make reference to the context in your answer.

(12)

the ability to read may be down to genes. These may be predispositions that can explain why some individuals find reading easier than others. For example, this may explain why Ada enjoys reading books as her mother always really enjoyed reading books, therefore it may be in her genes to have the ability to read well. Evidence from Gottesman and Shields <sup>Heston who</sup> found there was a 10.6% chance of a mother who had schizophrenia passing it on to her child. Therefore, although this is not schizophrenia, there is evidence to suggest that genes from parents can be passed down to children like her with Ada and her mum.

Hormones can also be used ~~another reason why some~~ to explain reading.



For example, males have a higher level of testosterone than females and so this can explain that Daniel has a higher level of testosterone than Ada. This may be why Daniel doesn't enjoy reading and prefers playing games about sport as some sports can be aggressive and testosterone contributes to that. Research evidence of Dobson et al found that male offenders had a higher level of testosterone and so can suggest <sup>higher</sup> aggression levels. Therefore, this can explain why Daniel prefers to play games about sport as it may contain aggressive behavior.

Another reason to explain ability to read is the reward pathway. Reward pathway is in the limbic system and suggests that when activated, a increase in dopamine, gives a euphoric feeling and so this behavior is <sup>rewarded</sup> ~~want to~~ to be repeated so they get that same euphoric feeling. For example, Ada may have her reward pathway stimulated when reading about police officers and so continues to read more. Whereas Daniel has his reward pathway stimulated when he plays video games and prefers to do that. Research evidence of Olds and Milner found that when male had had

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their reward pathway stimulated, they ~~wanted~~ <sup>wanted</sup> this feeling again and so this can explain the ability and want to read.

A competing theory to explain the ability to read is social learning theory as it suggests that through <sup>role</sup> model and attention, retention, reproduction and motivation, behaviour can be imitated. Ada may see her mum as her role model and so observes her mum read and so imitates it. Daniel could have observed his ~~dad~~ <sup>dad</sup> who is his role model play videogames and so imitates this. Research evidence from Bandura found that children were likely to imitate behaviours after viewing it and so can explain why Ada enjoys and reads well compared to Daniel who doesn't like it or prefers video games.

To conclude, genes, hormones, <sup>activation</sup> reward pathway can be said to biologically explain the ability to read. However, competing arguments from social learning theory can also explain. Therefore I believe that biological psychologically can sufficiently



explain ability to read.

(Total for Question 5 = 12 marks)

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