

IMPULSE CONTROL DISORDERS ESSAY PACK

For CAIE A2 Psychology Paper 3

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1 (a) Describe what psychologists have discovered about:

- **Diagnostic criteria of impulse control disorders**
- **Kleptomania Symptom Assessment Scale (K-SAS) [6]**

Ans.

The diagnostic criteria of impulse control disorders suggest a pattern of rising tension that is relieved only [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] In kleptomania, individuals experience [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

The Kleptomania Symptom Assessment Scale (K-SAS) is the main tool used to measure the

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] t also for assessing changes in symptom severity over time, such as during and after treatment.

1 (b) Evaluate what psychologists have discovered about:

- **Diagnostic criteria of impulse control disorders**
- **Kleptomania Symptom Assessment Scale (K-SAS)**

including a discussion about idiographic versus nomothetic approaches.

Evaluation in your answer can include strengths, weaknesses and a discussion of issues and debates. [10]

Ans.

An important issue is idiographic versus nomothetic. The diagnostic criteria for impulse control disorders are nomothetic because

[REDACTED]

Another relevant issue is the use of questionnaires. The K-SAS is entirely

[REDACTED]

may not fully capture denial, guilt or attempts to hide criminal behaviour.

Finally, case studies are an important consideration. Diagnosing impulse control disorders requires ruling out

[REDACTED]

2 (a) Describe what psychologists have discovered about:

- Biological explanation: dopamine
- Cognitive explanation : Miller's feeling-state

for impulse control disorders [6]

Ans.

The biological explanation focuses on the neurotransmitter dopamine. It is linked to r

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Later research suggested that some people have reward deficiency

[REDACTED]

Miller's feeling-state theory explains impulse control disorders through addictive memories.

Emotional states

[REDACTED]

2 (b) Evaluate what psychologists have discovered about:

- **Biological explanation: dopamine**
- **Cognitive explanation: Miller's feeling-state theory**

for impulse control disorders, including a discussion about individual and situational explanations.

Evaluation in your answer can include strengths, weaknesses and a discussion of issues and debates. [10]

Ans.

An important issue is individual and situational explanations. The biological explanation focuses on dopamine and its related reward centers

[REDACTED]

Another relevant issue is nature versus nurture. Biological explanations clearly support nature, suggesting that genetic

[REDACTED]

Application to everyday life is also important. Biological explanations help identify

[REDACTED]

link between emotional states and problem behaviours. This shows that both explanations have great practical value in treating impulse control disorders.

3 (a) Describe the Grant et al. study on treating gambling disorder with drugs and placebo. [6]

Ans.

Grant et al. investigated the factors that predict the effectiveness of opiate antagonists in treating gambling disorder. These drugs block

[REDACTED]

Results showed that the two trials produced highly similar findings, allowing combined analysis.

Family history of alcoholism

[REDACTED]

3 (b) Evaluate the Grant et al. study on treating gambling disorder with drugs and placebo, including a discussion about idiographic versus nomothetic approaches.

Evaluation in your answer can include strengths, weaknesses and a discussion of issues and debates. [10]

Ans.

An important issue is idiographic versus nomothetic approaches. Grant et al. aimed to identify

[REDACTED]

Another relevant issue is the use of interviews. Grant et al. used structured and semi-structured interviews

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] some participants may have under-reported family alcoholism or personal urges in this study, reducing validity.

Generalisation of findings is also an important consideration. The sample consisted only

[REDACTED]

4 (a) Describe what psychologists have discovered about:

- **Covert sensitisation**
- **Imaginal desensitisation**

as treatment for impulse-control disorders [6]

Ans.

Covert sensitisation is a learning-based treatment in which unwanted behaviours are weakened by linking them with disturbing and unpleasant images. The therapist guides the patient to

[REDACTED]

Imaginal desensitisation helps the patient visualise the entire chain of events that normally leads to impulsive behaviour. This includes [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(b) Evaluate what psychologists have discovered about:

- **Covert sensitisation**
- **Imaginal desensitisation**
-

as treatment for impulse-control disorders, including a discussion about application to everyday life.

Evaluation in your answer can include strengths, weaknesses and a discussion of issues and debates. [10]

Ans.

One relevant issue is application to everyday life. Both covert sensitisation and imaginal desensitisation give practical ways to

[REDACTED]

A second issue is reductionism versus holism. Covert sensitisation takes a reductionist view,

[REDACTED]

Imaginal desensitisation is more holistic because

[REDACTED]

A third relevant issue is idiographic versus nomothetic. Covert sensitisation can be adapted to individual clients,

[REDACTED]

This means imaginal desensitisation aligns more with an idiographic approach than covert sensitisation.

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