Psychology

Aggression

Credit Value of Unit 3

Learning Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The student should be able to</th>
<th>Assessment Criteria</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Understand theories explaining aggressive behaviour</td>
<td>1.1 Apply two theories of aggression to explain aggressive behaviour</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1.2 Explain how theories of aggression may be used to develop strategies for behavior modification</td>
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<td>1.3 Evaluate how theories of aggression may be used to develop strategies for behavior modification</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Understand the possible biological origins of aggressive behaviour</td>
<td>2.1 Describe the neural and hormonal mechanisms that are linked to aggressive behaviour</td>
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<td>2.2 Discuss how genetic predisposition might be linked to aggressive behaviour</td>
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Assessment Methodology

Presentation, portfolio or essay

Grading of this Unit

The following grade descriptors will be applied to the assessment of this unit:

1 Understanding the Subject
2 Application of Knowledge
4 Use of Information
5 Communication and Presentation
7 Quality

Please refer to the QAA Grade Descriptors for detail of the components of each descriptor
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Indicative Content</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Please note that the indicative content supplied below is intended as a suggested guide only. It is not meant to be a prescriptive, exhaustive or fully delivered content list.</strong></td>
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1. **Understand theories explaining aggressive behaviour**
   - Theories of aggression could include the frustration aggression hypothesis. Key study: Berkowitz & Le Page (1967)
   - Cognitive theories
   - Social Learning theory (Bandura) and the role of the media.
   - Institutional aggression, models such as the importation model and deprivation model. Between group conflict – key study Robbers Cave, Deindividuation
   - Behaviour modification strategies may include CBT, psychotherapy, counselling, token economies, use of role models

   These could be applied to explain how to reduce aggressive behaviour in a case study with an evaluation of how effective these strategies may be

2. **Understand the possible biological origins of aggressive behaviour**
   - Genetic predisposition, including chromosomes
   - Role of brain structures in aggression, neurotransmitters such as serotonin and hormones such as testosterone, gender differences in aggression and perimenstrual women, studies of brain function such as Raine (1997), cases such as Phineas Gage and Charles Whitman
   - Evolutionary explanations for aggression
   - Role of monoamine oxidase and studies, e.g. Bruner et al (1993)