**Genetics and behavior**

* With reference to relevant research studies, to what extent does genetic inheritance influence behavior? Possible essay alert

Using information from Abnormal Psychology, in pairs plan an essay outline

Introduction

Point 1 (PEE)

Point 2 (PEE)

Point 3 (PEE)

Point 4 (PEE)

Conclusion

* Examine one evolutionary explanation of behavior. (ERQ 2012)

1. To SAQ standard only. You need the theory and a supporting study
2. Explain the underlying assumptions of the evolutionary approach.
3. Briefly describe Darwin’s theory. The main point is that mechanisms for behavioural traits are selected that maximize survival but you need to explain how this is done. Use the top of p16 of the study guide. Also background reading in the textbook on p57 and p58

Now you have a choice

One evolutionary explanation: Disgust in pregnant women p16 study guide

What is the behavior specifically?

What is the theory behind why this behavior has evolved?

Fessler et al (2005) Elevated disgust sensitivity in the first trimester of pregnancy

Aims, methods, Findings

Can also be used under the general learning outcome of research methods (survey)

OR Recycle One evolutionary explanation: Human mating behaviours (Human relationships)

* Jealously (Buss 1996) p274 textbook
* Stronger immune system The dirty shirt study (Wedekind 1995) p275 textbook

OR Recycle One evolutionary explanation: Altruism (evolutionary theories)

* Kin selection (Axelrod and Hamilton) See Human relationship notes. Theory on p103 of study guide but does not have the study.
* Discuss ethical considerations in research into genetic influences on behavior. (ERQ May2011)

1. To SAQ standard only. Discussions need to be based on ethical issues in a study (informed consent, confidentiality, psychological harm, right to withdraw and deception). Also could discuss how the findings of research have been applied, including possible abuse of findings.
2. Background reading on p59-60 of the textbook. Eugenics on p56 (in box)
3. Use p17 of the study guide to make notes on ethical considerations in genetic research.
4. Outline Caspi et al (2003) Similar to Duenwald. Can be recycled in Abnormal Psychology
5. What ethical issues could arise as a result of this study?