

Exam practice

Case study

James is 15 years old and is the eldest of Cathy and David's three children. He is currently studying for his GCSEs and he enjoys school. He wishes to continue his studies at A-level before going to university. He would like to take out a year and travel with his girlfriend Jenny firstly. James likes football and regularly meets his grandfather to watch the local football team. When James was eight he broke his leg and needed to have an operation on it. He has suffered no long term medical problems.

Exam technique: Have you underlined all the key information in the case study?

a)	life event	life stage
	changes from milk to solid food	
	skin loses its elasticity	
	starts school and makes friends	
	people marry and start a family	/4

- b) Identify James' current life stage (1 mark)
- c) Identify James' previous life stage (1 mark)
- d) Identify three physical changes boys are likely to experience in his current life stage (3 marks)
- e) Identify which relationship is likely to be important to James in his current life stage. (1 mark)
- f) Explain why this relationship may be so important (2 marks)
- g) Identify one other relationship which may important to James. (1 mark)
- h) When James was eight he broke his leg. Identify and explain TWO sources of support which could have helped James through this event. (6 marks)

Identification	Identification
Explanation	Explanation

- i) At school James is currently finishing his science coursework on how environmental factors such as noise, pollution, crime and poor living conditions can affect intellectual development. Discuss how these factors might affect intellectual development. (6 marks)
- j) Explain how your social and emotional development may be affected by the environment in which you live. (4 marks)
- k) James has a positive self concept. Identify and explain ONE factor from the background information which might account for this. (3 marks)
- l) Discuss why a high self esteem is important for James' personal development. (6 marks)
- m) James has experienced many expected and unexpected life events. Decide if each life event is expected or unexpected. (3 marks)
 - i) James breaking his leg
 - ii) James starting school
 - iii) James going through puberty

Total
/ 41

Answers

a)	life event	life stage
	changes from milk to solid food	infancy
	skin loses its elasticity	later adulthood
	starts school and makes friends	early childhood
	people marry and start a family	early adulthood
		/4

b) Adolescence (1 mark)

c) Early Childhood (1 mark)

d) grow taller; voice breaks; pubic hair grows; shoulders broaden; testes produce sperm; penis grows ;gain weight (3 marks)

e) friends/ peers (1 mark)

f) James is an adolescent; helps him identify with his own age group; social acceptance with peer group helps his self-esteem/ feel good factor; share problems- friends can sympathise. (2 marks)

g) Girlfriend; youth club leader; employer; church; family (1 mark)

Identification: formal/ doctor	Identification: informal/ family
Explanation Doctor would have looked at James' X-ray of leg and treated him. Prescribed medication for pain. Treat injury.	Explanation Family could take James out to keep his spirits up. Family could help bathe him, cheer him up, thus meeting his emotional needs. (6 marks)

i) 1-2 marks: will simply describe how it affects them negatively. 1 or 2 factors identified (e.g. Noise = cannot sleep so may be tired for school, so cannot concentrate and therefore not do so well in school. Poor living conditions = cramped home and nowhere quiet to study. If lots of people live in confined dwelling, more risk of illness and therefore more time off school.)
3-4 marks: concentrates on the **negative effects only** of factors in relation to intellectual development and school performance- does poorly at school, drop out
5-6 marks: full discussion of how it affects the individual's intellectual development **but also** other aspects of their health and well being in the long-term. (e.g. if not do so well in school, less chance of getting a good job and therefore less money etc.... Self-esteem **may** be lower if one is not successful in school)

j) 1-2 marks: general description of how it affects them positively or negatively
3-4 marks: fuller explanation of how it can affect the individual self-esteem and self-concept positively or negatively. (e.g. if you live in a nice area/house, you may have a higher self-esteem, feel happier. More likely to invite friends around (social needs met), less chance of falling ill as don't live in confined area. Easier to study as quieter, and better areas have more libraries etc... If one lives in a cramped flat and one does not like the flat, one may be hesitant to invite friends around... etc.. (4 marks)

k) identify: he enjoys school- he will do well intellectually and have more chance to be successful in life
identify: he wants to go to university- he has plans for the future, ambition
identify: he has a girlfriend- he feels loved and may have high self-esteem
(3 marks)

l). 1-2 marks: very general description given- feels good, confident
3-4 marks: discussion focuses on James' self-esteem at the moment- it is high and focuses on the factors (happy in school, ambitions for university, travelling, girlfriend...) Concentrates on the positive effects-will value himself, confident, make friends, does well at school/university, good for relationship with his girlfriend.
5-6 marks: discussion will focus on James' self-esteem but identify how it can affect other aspects of his life and other relationships in his life. Will make links between each area and also look further to future developments or outlines the effects if his self-esteem were low (make a comparison) e.g. wouldn't be able to accomplish the same. (6 marks)

m) i) unexpected ii) expected iii) expected (3 marks)

Total / 41
