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| **Unit 3: Forensic Psychology** **– Biological explanations of offending behaviour: Genetics and neural explanations** |
| **Outline one biological explanation of offending behaviour (up to 6 marks)****Describe the genetic explanation of criminal behaviour (up to 6 marks)****Discuss the neural explanations of offending behaviour (8/16 marks)****Outline and evaluate the biological approach to offending behaviour (up to 16 marks)**  |
| **AO1 (AO2 if need to apply to text) (up to 6 marks) – Genetics** |
| **Genetic explanations** for crime suggest that would-be offenders inherit a gene, or combination of genes, that predispose them to commit crime.**Twins research:****Candidate genes:** MAOA and CDH13 |
| **AO1 (AO2 if need to apply to text) (up to 6 marks) – Neural**There may be neural differences in the brains of criminals and noncriminals. Much of the evidence in this area has investigated individuals diagnosed with anti-social personality disorder (formerly known as psychopathy) – APD. APD is associated with reduced emotional responses and a lack of empathy. It is a condition that characterises many convicted criminals.**Prefrontal cortex****Limbic system:****Biochemistry: the role of serotonin**  |
| **AO3 – (up to 10 marks):**  |
| **P)** *(Genetic and Neural)* Issue with causation due to…**E)****E)****L)** This demonstrates the difficulties with explaining offending behaviour from a purely neural and/or genetic viewpoint. |
| **P)** *(Genetic and Neural)* Support for the diathesis-stress model of crime**E)****E)****L)** environmental influence cannot be disregarded which supports the diathesis-stress model as an explanation for crime. |
| **P)** *(genetic)*Problems with twin studies**E)****E)****L)** This means evidence gained on genetic influences may be difficult to generalise to both criminal and non-criminal populations |
| **P)** *(Neural explanations)* Issues with research investigating the brain**E)****E)****L)**  |
| **Could also evaluate using issues and debates – see reductionism and determinist arguments** |