

3.6 Social-Emotional Development Across the Lifespan

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 18 marks**

KEY WORDS attachment 依恋 • avoidant 回避型 • contact comfort 接触安慰
• strange situation 陌生情境 • authoritative 权威型

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **attachment** 依恋 and social development.

You must be able to:

- describe the attachment styles identified in the **strange situation** 陌生情境
- state what research on contact comfort demonstrated
- describe the main **parenting styles** 教养方式 and their associations
- state what a **psychosocial stage** account proposes

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ Attachment styles

In the strange situation, infants are observed through separations and reunions. **Secure** infants explore, are distressed by separation and are comforted on reunion. **Insecure** patterns include avoiding the caregiver or being anxious and hard to soothe.

■ Contact comfort

Classic primate research showed infants preferring a soft surrogate to a wire one that supplied food, indicating that attachment depends on comfort and contact rather than feeding alone.

■ Parenting styles

Authoritative: high demands with high responsiveness; associated with the best outcomes. **Authoritarian:** high demands, low responsiveness. **Permissive:** low demands, high responsiveness. These are correlational associations, not proven causes.

■ Psychosocial stages

Development is described as a sequence of social tasks, each posing a conflict — trust, identity, generativity — whose resolution shapes later functioning. The value of the account is the framework, not a fixed timetable.

2 Practice

2.1 Describe the behaviour of a securely attached infant in the strange situation. [2]

2.2 State what contact comfort research demonstrated. [2]

2.3 A parent sets clear rules and explains them, and responds warmly to the child.

(a) Name the parenting style. [1]

(b) State one caution about inferring its effects. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 An infant who ignores the caregiver on reunion shows [1]

A	B
C	D

A secure attachment

B an insecure-avoidant pattern

C contact comfort

D generativity

3.2 Parenting-style findings are correlational, which means they cannot establish [1]

A	B
C	D

A that an association exists

B that the style causes the outcome

C the direction of the association

D the sample size

3.3 A study finds that children of authoritative parents have better school outcomes.

(a) State one alternative explanation for the association. [1]

(b) Explain what evidence would be needed for a causal claim. [2]

3.4 Applied research task. In the Strange Situation, one-year-olds are observed as a caregiver leaves and returns. Child **A** is distressed at the separation and is quickly comforted on reunion. Child **B** shows little distress and ignores the caregiver on return. Child **C** is very distressed and, on reunion, both clings and pushes the caregiver away.

(a) Name the attachment type shown by each child. [3]

(b) Explain what Harlow's monkey studies showed about the basis of attachment, and why the result was surprising. [2]

(c) Explain **one** limitation of using the Strange Situation across different cultures. [1]

(d) Erikson would describe the first year as a psychosocial crisis. Name it, and state what its favourable resolution produces. [1]
