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Revision

The ERA project: rethinking deprivation

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This quiz relates to the **PSYCHOLOGY REVIEW** Vol. 31, No. 1 article on the English and Romanian Adoptees (ERA) project, specifically the consequences of long-term early childhood deprivation. If you keep both the article and your answers to the questions, you will have a useful revision guide for relevant exam questions.

Part 1

True or false

1 According to the article, the Romanian government was trying to decrease the size of the population.

False: The Romanian government was trying to increase the population by banning contraception and abortions and decreased taxes for families with at least four children.

2 Two thirds of children who experienced 6 months or more of deprivation exhibited emotional/trauma-related problems.

False: Two thirds of children who experienced 6 months or more of deprivation exhibited more neurodevelopmental issues such as ADHD and autism traits, cognitive learning difficulties and disinhibited social engagement.

3 Risk of ADHD was seven times higher in the children who experienced 6 months or more of deprivation compared with the control group.

True: Furthermore, the risk of quasi-autism was ten times higher in the children who experienced 6 months or more of deprivation compared with the control group

4 There was no significant difference in the development of children who experienced less than 6 months of deprivation and children from the control group.

True: This was contrary to expectation: briefer periods of deprivation (under 6 months) appeared to have little lasting impact.

Part 2

Multiple choice

1 When did Romania open its borders, allowing television companies to film inside the orphanages for the first time?

a) — 1979

b) 1989

~~c) 1999~~

~~d) 2009~~

2 What was the independent variable in this natural experiment?

~~a) severity of neurodevelopmental problems, i.e. number of ADHD/autism traits~~

~~b) whether the children were adopted or not~~

~~c) felt no difference in sense of agency (free will) between the mind reading and mind influencing task~~

d) duration of deprivation

3 The ERA study concluded that mental health issues in the Romanian adolescents were caused by...

~~a) traumatic experiences in infancy~~

b) neurodevelopmental issues in childhood

~~c) malnutrition in infancy (due to poor economic situation in Romania)~~

~~d) environmental toxins in the orphanages~~

Part 3

Know your terms

What do each of the following terms mean? For each term, try to create a sentence that uses the term correctly.

- Deprivation
- Natural experiment
- Longitudinal study
- Retrospective versus Prospective
- Disinhibited social engagement
- Quasi-autism
- Causality
- Resilience
- Plasticity

Pick out any other key terms or words in the article that you do not fully understand and find out what they mean. Remember, some of the specialist terms used in psychology may have different meanings when used in everyday conversation. Be careful about where you search for definitions – try to use credible psychology-specific sources, not just general dictionaries.

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