

Exam Preparation

Section A - Multiple Choice Questions (5 marks)

Question 1

Maria placed an apple in her lunchbox for work and her 3-year-old son's school lunchbox. This is most likely an example of the key behavioural principle:

- a. **Modelling**
- b. Exposure
- c. Repetition
- d. All of the above.

The answer is A. Maria is showing her son that she will also have an apple for lunch; therefore, this is an example of modelling.

The answer is not B. This could be an example of exposure; however, it is more likely an example of modelling.

The answer is not C. Repetition would have involved repeatedly giving the same food to a child.

The answer is not D.

Question 2

If a child refuses to eat steamed broccoli after it has been offered five times; the parent should:

- a. Tell the child they can have dessert if they have one bite of broccoli.
- b. Give up and offer a different healthy food.
- c. **Use a different preparation and/ or cooking method when they offer broccoli the next time.**
- d. Disguise the food by pureeing it and adding it to food the child likes.

The answer is not A. Offering a child discretionary food as a reward for eating nutritious food may result in them eating discretionary food to feel good in the future.

The answer is not B. Often it takes more than 5 times for a child to accept food as a regular part of their diet. Parents should not give up, but they can try offering different nutritious food.

The answer is C. The vegetable might appeal to the child if used in different preparation and/ or cooking methods.

The answer is not D. Hiding vegetables in food is a good way for children to consume vegetables; however, it does not get them to accept vegetables as part of a healthy diet. The child might grow up thinking they have never eaten vegetables and do not need to.

Question 3

An example of the key behavioural principle of exposure to establish healthy diets in children is

- a. offering the same food cooked in various ways.
- b. **visiting a market and encouraging children to sample the range of fruits in season.**
- c. allowing children to select which type of takeaway meal they would like to eat.
- d. teaching children about the benefits of eating meals together as a family.

The answer is not A. This is an example of repetition.

The answer is B. Encouraging children to sample a range of fruits in season is an example of exposing children to different fruits.

The answer is not C. Allowing children to select which type of takeaway meal they would like to eat is more likely to contribute to unhealthy diets in children.

The answer is not D. This is an example of using food to develop family connections.

Question 4

Which group behaviour encourages the modelling of healthy eating in children?

- a. Distributing lolly bags to children who attended a birthday party.
- b. An older sibling helping a child select healthy toppings for a pizza.
- c. Children participating in a sausage sizzle as part of a fundraiser.
- d. A chef teaching children to make homemade burgers with a selection of vegetables at a school celebration.

The answer is not A. Distributing lolly bags to children is an example of encouraging unhealthy eating.

The answer is not B. This is not an example of group behaviour.

The answer is not C. This is group behaviour; however, sausages are considered discretionary foods.

The answer is D. The chef is modelling healthy cooking for a group of children.

Question 5

Which key behaviour principle is most likely being represented in the image below?



Source: ארכיון עין השופט, CC BY 2.5 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.5>>, via Wikimedia Commons

- a. Repetition
- b. Exposure
- c. Modelling
- d. None of the above.

The answer is not A. There is no evidence that repetition is occurring in the image.

The answer is not B. The children may be being exposed to ingredients, but there does not seem to be a variety of ingredients displayed.

The answer is C. The lady is modelling cooking for the children.

The answer is not D.

Section B – Short Answer Responses (10 marks)

Question 1 (3 marks)

Identify three examples of exposure that can be used to promote healthy eating. (2 marks)

For three marks, the student needed to provide two examples of exposure that can be used to promote healthy eating.

Any three of the following responses are suitable:

- Reading a book about vegetables.
- Planting a vegetable garden.
- Cooking with children.
- Taking children shopping for nutritious foods.
- Watching TV shows that talk about healthy eating.

Question 2 (7 marks)

You want your child to eat the spinach you serve; your child drops it on the floor. Your well-meaning impulse may be to start talking up nutritious foods, saying how big and strong spinach will make your child. Or you might start bargaining: "Well, if you eat three more bites, I'll give you a cookie."

<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/toddler-meals.html>

- a. Describe the potential problem with the scenario described above. (3 marks)

For one mark, the student needed to refer to the above scenario.

In the scenario above, the child is offered a cookie if they eat some nutritious food.

For two marks, the student needed to explain the potential problem with telling children they can be rewarded with discretionary food if they consume some healthy food.

This is a concern as the child might develop the habit of rewarding themselves with discretionary foods. This can contribute to being overweight or obese.

- b. Using your knowledge of the modelling and repetition, outline a suitable way a parent can encourage their child to eat vegetables. (4 marks)

For two marks, the student needed to outline how a parent can encourage a child to eat vegetables using the key behavioural principle of modelling.

Modelling – The parents could invite extended family members over for dinner, particularly if they have some children a little older than their own child. They could serve the spinach during dinner, and the child could observe other people enjoying the spinach. This is modelling and could be one way for the child to accept and try the spinach.

For two marks, the student needed to outline how a parent can encourage a child to eat vegetables using the key behavioural principle of repetition.

If the parent serves the spinach in various ways, this may increase the likelihood of the child liking the vegetable. For example, they could make spinach soup, spinach pastry parcels, spinach dip, or salad.

Section C – Extended Responses (10 marks)

In a survey conducted in October 2017 by the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne, Australian parents were asked a series of questions about their understanding, experiences, and opinions about the diet, nutrition, and eating habits of their children.

A sample of 1,980 parents yielded data on 3,704 children aged between one month and 18 years. Of these 3,704 children,

- 571 (15%) were infants and toddlers (aged zero to less than three years);
- 708 (19%) were preschoolers (aged three to less than five years);
- 1479 (40%) were primary school-aged children (aged six to less than 13 years); and,
- 946 (26%) were teenagers (aged 13 to less than 18 years).

Of those parents interviewed, 91% understood the importance of a healthy diet for their children's wellbeing.

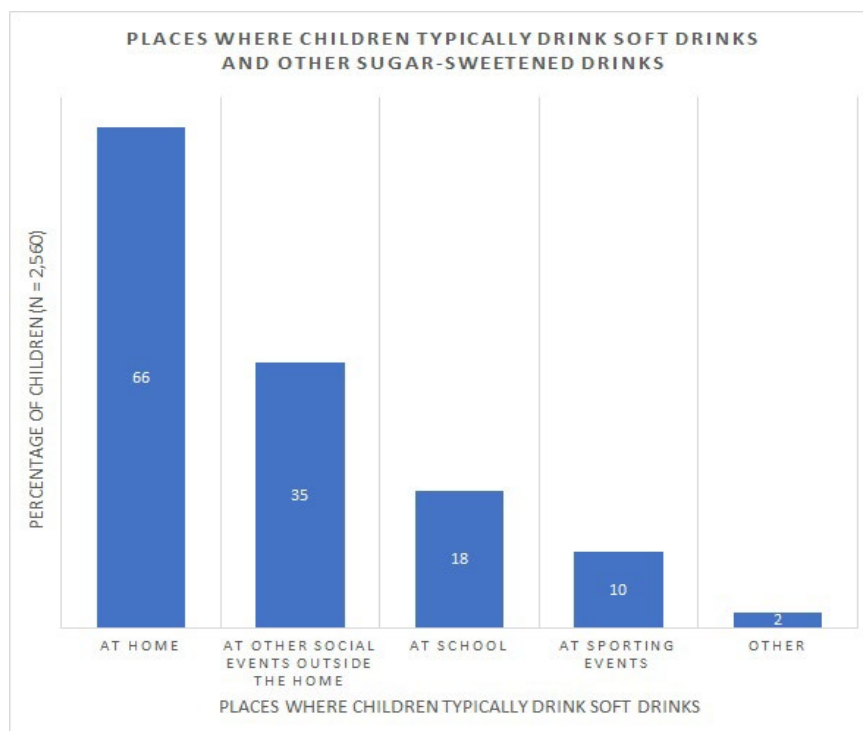
However, most parents (57%) said it could be difficult to know what foods are healthy when buying them. Two-

Two-thirds (67%) of parents reported that it was hard to know how much added sugar was in the food they bought for their children. Over half (53%) said it was hard to understand nutrition information labels.

Parents surveyed also indicated that cost was a barrier to making healthy food choices, with three-quarters (77%) of parents saying that they believe healthy food is generally more expensive than unhealthy food.

Advertising is also a factor, with two-thirds (61%) saying that they sometimes buy unhealthy food products that their children request because they have seen them advertised.

The survey results revealed the following data.



Rhodes, D. A., 2017. *Kids and Food: Challenges Families Face. The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne: National Child Health Poll, Poll 9(December 2017).*

Referring to the information above and your own knowledge, analyse the factors that impact the health and wellbeing of children in Australia. In your response, include the following:

- The ways in which social factors influence parent's food choices and children's eating patterns.
- The political influence on the advertising industries and the impact on food choices
- The key behavioural principles behind establishing healthy meal patterns in families

This is an example of a very high-level response:

A vast range of factors impacts the health and wellbeing of children in Australia. These include social factors, such as income and education, and external factors, such as politics, including food advertising. Implementing the key behavioural principles, exposure, modelling, and repetition can help families reinforce healthy meal patterns.

Interrelated social factors influence Australians' responses to healthy eating. The social factor of education can significantly impact a parent's ability to provide healthy food for their children. The parents surveyed identified a lack of education in having the knowledge and skills to understand and interpret food labels. 91% of the parents that responded to the survey identified that they understood the importance of a healthy diet for the health and wellbeing of their children. But 57% identified that a lack of education resulted in them not knowing what to look for when choosing to buy healthy foods, a staggering 67% said they found it challenging to know how much sugar was in a food product, and 53% said they found it hard to understand nutrition labels on food packages. The likely outcome is that parents are less likely to choose healthy packaged food for their children. This is particularly evident in the graph that identifies the home where children were 66% more likely to consume soft drinks and other sugar-sweetened drinks. Improving parent's education about understanding food labels may significantly impact children's health and wellbeing because parents who are educated in reading food labels may be more likely to select packaged foods with lower levels of salt, saturated fat, and sugar. This might restrict the number of discretionary foods in the home, including soft drinks and sugar-sweetened beverages that parents buy, and may encourage children to consume healthier food options.

The other social factor identified by parents as having a negative impact on the health and wellbeing of their children was income. As a result of the survey, 77% of parents said that they felt healthy food was more expensive than unhealthy food. Some healthier food options may not be as accessible for families on a low income; for example, lean minced meat may cost more than regular or lower-grade minced meat that contains higher levels of saturated fat. However, not all healthy food options are more expensive. For instance, an apple may be cheaper than packaged muesli bars high in sugar, or healthier options like lite milk may be more affordable than more expensive chocolate-flavoured sweetened milk. With wise food choices, the social factor of having less income does not always need to result in a decline in healthy eating.

The political influence on advertising is likely to impact children's food choices significantly. Children often lack the cognitive ability to understand when advertising is false or misleading. They can easily believe what advertisements are saying is true, and they cannot always recognise the difference between healthy and discretionary food choices. For this reason, the advertising of food products, specifically to children, is overseen by various political policies and regulations. Two-thirds (61%) of the parents surveyed said that they sometimes buy unhealthy food products their children request because they have seen them advertised. Often when children see food product advertisements, they nag at their parents to buy the food; this is commonly referred to as pester power. Parents often 'give in' and buy the food product to stop the children from nagging them. Various political influences are working to decrease the number of food advertisements advertised to children in the hope that children will desire them less and parents will become less likely to buy discretionary food for their children. For example, in 2021, The Food and Beverages Advertising Code was introduced by the government. This code oversees and restricts a range of aspects of marketing and advertising to children. For example, under the code sponsorship ads that target children are no longer permitted to show occasional (discretionary) food or beverages in their advertisements. Companies sponsoring events can only show such things as brand names and logos, not occasional or discretionary food items. It is hoped that this code will help to reduce the consumption of discretionary food choices. In the survey conducted in 2017, it was found that 10% of children drank soft drinks and sugar-sweetened drinks at sponsored sporting events. It will be interesting to see if this number decreases due to the introduction and enforcement of the 2021, Food and Beverages Advertising Code.

The key behavioural principles of exposure, modelling, and repetition may help families establish healthy eating patterns. Exposure occurs when people get children to see and interact more in healthy environments. This could involve taking children to fruit and vegetable markets which enables them to see a variety of nutritious foods, it could be to have a range of nutritious food available at home, or it could be exposing them to planting a vegetable garden and using those vegetables in the family meals. Modelling involves parents or older siblings eating nutritious food; a parent who drinks water instead of having soft drinks is modelling or demonstrating healthy consumption habits. Over time, children begin to view this as normal and are more likely to start to do the same. This is part of the modelling process. Repetition involves repeating healthy food consumption to make it more accepted by children. It is often said that children need to be exposed to something 20 times before they will accept it as part of their regular diet. Regardless of whether this is true or not, repetitively consuming something is likely to help children become more familiar with the food and more likely to accept it as part of a regular diet.

Children are more likely to consume nutritious foods if their families are modelling the same if they are exposed to nutritious foods and repetitively given these foods. Parents who look for economical, nutritious foods and educate themselves on reading food labels are more likely to help ensure their children eat healthy food. With the support of political influence, parents may positively impact the health and wellbeing of children in Australia.

Marking Scheme

Command Term: Analyse This means the student needs to identify components/elements and the significance of the relationship between them; draw out and relate implications, determine logic and reasonableness of information. (VCAA). They need to break down the topic into its parts, explain the relative importance of components, definitions or concepts and explain how they are interrelated and why specific outcomes occurred.		
Mark	Level	Description
10	Very High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extremely high standard of work. Very clear identification and explanation of key terms. Accurate, clear, and highly effective/relevant reference to stimulus throughout the response. Concise and well-structured response. Very comprehensive analyses that identified and explained the impact of social factors on children's eating patterns. Very comprehensive discussion about the relationship between politics and food advertising and how this impacts food choices of families. Very comprehensive discussion that identified the three key behavioural principles and how they can be used to help establish healthy meal patterns in families.
8-9	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High standard of work. Clear identification and explanation of key terms. Accurate, clear, and effective/relevant reference to stimulus throughout the response. Well-structured response. Thorough analysis that identified and explained the impact of social factors on children's eating patterns. Thorough discussion about the relationship between politics and food advertising and how this impacts food choices of families. Thorough discussion that identified the three key behavioural principles and how they can help establish healthy meal patterns in families.
6-7	Good/ Satisfactory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Satisfactory level of work. Identification and explanation of most key terms. Relevant reference to stimulus in response. Satisfactory structured response. Good analysis that identified and explained the impact of social factors on children's eating patterns. Good discussion about the relationship between politics and food advertising and how this impacts the food choices of families. Good discussion that identified the three key behavioural principles and how they can help establish healthy meal patterns in families.
4-5	Basic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic level of work. Identification and explanation of some key terms. Some reference to stimulus in response. Response lacks structure. Demonstrated some understanding of the social factors impact on children's eating patterns. Demonstrates some understanding of the relationship between politics and food advertising and how this impacts food choices of families. Satisfactory discussion that identified the three key behavioural principles and how they can help establish healthy meal patterns in families.
2-3	Very basic/ limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very basic level of work. Identification and explanation of very few key terms. Lacks reference to stimulus in response. Response lacks structure. Demonstrated limited understanding the social factors impact on children's eating patterns. Demonstrated limited understanding about the relationship between politics and food advertising and how this impacts food choices of families. Very brief discussion that identified some key behavioural principles and how they can help establish healthy meal patterns in families.
0-1	Very limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inadequate level of work. Minimal, if any, identification and explanation of key terms. Minimal, if any, reference to stimulus in response. Response lacks structure. Very limited understanding of the social factors that impact children's eating patterns. Demonstrated very little understanding about the relationship between politics and food advertising and how this impacts food choices of families. Very brief response that identified some key behavioural principles.
0	Inadequate	Does not address the question.
NA	No Response	No written response provided.