**Biological Explanation of Schizophrenia**

**Outline/explain the theory**

The biological explanation of schizophrenia suggests that people who experience symptoms of schizophrenia have an **overactive dopamine system.** (1) This means that **dopaminergic neurons** transmit **signals** more often than normal, which leads to high levels of dopamine binding to receptors. (1) For example, because dopamine affects **attention and** **perception**, when too much dopamine is transmitted it could cause **thought disturbances and hallucinations**. (1) F Furthermore, this theory proposes that **brain dysfunction** in a number of areas of the brain is reason for the development of schizophrenia. (1) For example, people with schizophrenia show less blood flow (less activity) in the **prefrontal cortex** (the area of the brain responsible for logic, reasoning and judgment) (1) This means they may struggle with **planning ahead**, and making **accurate judgements**. (1)

**Criticisms/limitations**

The theory can be criticised for focusing too much on the role of nature (biological abnormalities and brain dysfunction). (1) It ignores the importance of psychological factors, such as upbringing and life events. (1)

Some critics argue that the biological explanation is too reductionist and deterministic. (1) It reduces a complex mental illness down to two simplistic explanations and suggests that people with brain dysfunction/abnormalities will experience symptoms of schizophrenia. (1)