
EDUCATOR ANSWER KEY—MODELS FOR HUMAN SEXUAL RESPONSE

1. **Why do you think there are different models for human sexual function and response?**

Humans are diverse in terms of their bodies, sexualities, desires and psychology. Like any kind of function and response, there is no one way to function or respond. No one model fits all.

2. **If we only had the Linear Model, what aspects of sexuality would be left out?**

Aspects such as intimacy, psychological aspects of sexuality, and desire would be left out.

3. **The Linear model was first proposed in the 1960s and then updated over the years. The Non-linear model is from 2001. What other aspects of sexuality do you think could be added to updates?**

Welcome students' imagination and contemplation. If students are stuck, prompt by asking them how the information and research we have access to might change over time and how this impacts sexuality and new models for sexual response.

4. **What might be some psychological factors that affect sexual desire? What would make someone feel less sexual desire even if there is biological stimuli?**

Experiencing depression, grief, or conflict within the relationship, being triggered from prior physical and/or sexual violence. Feeling threatened, disrespected, and/or scared. Being tired, stressed, or distracted. Feeling worried about pregnancy or STBBIs. Feeling anxious about how they look or how they “perform.” Feeling concerned that they cannot change or stop the activity if they lose interest. Feeling unsafe about privacy, physical safety, or trusting the other person(s). Not feeling confident or feeling insecure.

5. **What does it mean if someone does not fit perfectly into one model or the other?**

It means that they are human and that humans are diverse. We can draw knowledge from models, combine them, challenge them, or disregard them altogether. Many models and descriptions about sexuality, puberty, and reproductive life changes are guidelines or averages only, no one fits perfectly into them (e.g., age when puberty begins, length of menstrual cycle, body proportions, number of sperm in each ejaculation, etc.)

