Describe the biological approach to gender development.

• Your biology controls your gender.
• When a foetus is 6 weeks it has no female or male gonads (foo or willy) until hormones start to make ovaries or testes form.
• Next the testes make testosterone. Testosterone is linked to aggression and mathematical skills. THESE ARE MASCULINE GENDER TRAITS.
• Ovaries make oestrogen which is linked to sensitivity and language skills. THESE ARE FEMININE GENDER TRAITS.
• Evolution explains why females are more caring and sensitive as women raise children. This is why men are aggressive and competitive because they have to fight and hunt for their family.
• Chromosomes - XX are female chromosomes and so cause feminine gender traits. XY are male chromosomes and will cause masculine gender traits. XXY can cause androgeny.
Testosterone
What are the limitations of the Biological approach?

Gender can be learnt (e.g. if you were a girl with older brothers you could learnt masculine traits from them)

Biology is fixed but gender is not. E.g. identical twins with identical biology can have different gender traits.

Biology is the same around the world but gender differs in different cultures. E.g. In Japan it is a masculine trait for men to hold hands. In our culture this is a feminine trait.
Describe the Psychodynamic Approach to gender development.

- **Electra Complex**
  - Girl wants a penis (penis envy)
  - Thinks mother has chopped it off
  - Decides a baby would be better than a penis
  - And so decided mother has baby so girl **identifies** with mother
  - Girl takes on gender role of mother

- **Oedipus Complex**
  - Boy desires his mother
  - Thinks father will find out and cut his penis off (castration anxiety)
  - Therefore he tries to be like his father to get close to his mother
  - To do this he takes on the gender role of his father (identification)

*Why can't we remember this happening?*  
*It happens in your unconscious!*
Describe Diamond & Sigmundson’s Study.

- (Procedure) Based on interviews
- 2 twin boys, 1 lost his penis during a circumcision
- At 17 months old, Money advised Bruce’s parents to raise him as a girl
- Bruce begins gender reassignment to become Brenda
- Bruce develops masculine traits
- Age 13 Bruce is told he was born a boy and decides to change sex again back to male.

**DIAMOND & SIGMUND CONCLUDE THAT BRUCE DEVELOPED A MASCULINE GENDER BECAUSE OF HIS BIOLOGY (MALE), THEY SUPPORT THE BIOLOGICAL APPROACH!!!!!!**
Describe the limitations to Diamond & Sigmundson’s study (criticisms)

1. It doesn’t show that Bruce’s biology caused him to have masculine traits because......
   - he could have learnt to be masculine before the age of 17 months
   ......and also from his twin brother

2. Also, the sample size is too small. One person is not enough to........
   Generalise to a wider population!!!!

3. The research might not be OBJECTIVE!!!
   For example Money was trying to prove that gender is learnt so he will have been focusing on proving his hypothesis, not disproving it. Therefore he would have only looked for evidence in support and might have ignored evidence against.
How can the research into sex and gender be applied to real life?

• It gives us useful information about EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES!!!!!

• Are males and females born with the same skills or are there gender differences?

• E.g. if boys are better naturally at maths, should we give girls extra maths tuition? If girls are better at language, should boys attend extra English?

• Why do girls do better at school than boys? (explain the gender gap in education)
Electra complex  oedipus complex
Biological theory  twins  gender  Freud
Money  Diamond & Sigmundson  sex
New Guinea  Upbringing  XXY  XX
XY  hunting  language
Testosterone  oestrogen  equal-opportunities
gender gap  case study
sample-size