Section B

Social and Psychological Theories of Risk Taking
Risk Perception

- Adolescents are no worse than adults at estimating vulnerability to risk (Renya and Farley, 2006)
Family Structure/Function Associated with Risk Taking

- Single parent
- Parental monitoring
- Parental connectedness
- Authoritative parenting style
The Biopsychosocial Model of Risk-Taking Behavior

Source: Adapted from Irwin and Millstein. (1986).
Factors Contributing to the Onset of Risk Taking

Predisposing Endogenous Factors
- Cognitive immaturity
- Depression
- Low self-esteem
- Male gender
- Genetic predisposition
- Sensation seeking
- Value on dependence
- Asynchronous development
- Hormonal effects
- Normal effective states
- Intact self-esteem
- Value on achievement
- Religiosity
- Cognitive maturity

Predisposing Exogenous Factors
- Peer approval of risk behaviors
- Lack of parental supervision
- School failure
- Poverty
- Parental involvement in risk behaviors
- Academic achievement
- Intact family
- Close supportive parental relationships
- Church attendance
- Involvement in school activities
- Authoritative parenting

Precipitating Factors
- Peer initiation of risk behaviors
- Social pressure
- School transition
- Family disruption
- Initiation of sexual activity or substance use
- Vulnerability

Risk-taking behavior

Source: Irwin and Ryan. (1989); Irwin and Millstein. (1986).