Alternative Model: Lee’s model of relationship dissolution:

1. **Dissatisfaction** - Individual feels dissatisfied
2. **Exposure** - Dissatisfaction is revealed to the partner
3. **Negotiation** - Discussion of dissatisfaction occurs
4. **Resolution** - Attempts are made to resolve the dissatisfaction
5. **Termination** - Dissatisfaction is not resolved and the relationship ends

Lee created the model after conducting a survey of 112 non-marital breakups finding that the negotiation of exposure stages was more emotionally exhausting. Those who missed out on stages had less intimate relationships. Those who went through the stages very slowly felt loss and loneliness more after the breakup. This supports the breakdown of short term relationships as well as some reasons for breakdown such as sudden death.

- There is a gender bias to theories of relationship breakdown. It is apparent that men and women both cope with relationship breakdowns in different ways and the theories do not take this into account. As a result in order to improve the theories they need to be adapted according to each gender in order to support the general population. As a result the theories can be seen as gender biased.

- Neither theory is able to support abusive relationships. The theory is not able to explain why an individual wouldn’t initiate the breakdown process as abused partners often just simply walk away from the relationship. As a result, further research needs to be conducted into various types of relationships in order to apply their process of breakdown to either existing models or new models need to be created to support different relationships such as abusive relationships.

- The model created by Lee can be seen as a positive approach. The model sees more opportunity for saving problems in relationships that Rollie and Duck’s model as it outlines the process it takes to get to the point of termination in more detail. Duck’s model tends to focus more on the emotional aspect of breakdown where Lee’s model seems to outline the stages of the breakdown.

**Evolutionary Explanation of Romantic Relationships:**

*Human reproductive behaviour is the relationship between sexual selection and human reproductive behaviour. Reproductive success is the production of healthy offspring, surviving to sexual maturity and reproducing themselves. This is a long term goal that drives over relationships building and maintaining them throughout our lives.*
that male investment is high is well supported.

- It is argued that parental certainty is not always an issue in order to make males invest. Anderson found measured resources invested by fathers and stepfathers. Men appeared to not discriminate between children born to their current partner from a previous relationship and their own children from a previous relationship. This therefore goes against the concept of evolution suggesting males only invest in their own offspring if it is considered beneficial to the passing of their genes, as a result paternal certainty is not essential in order for paternal investment to occur.

- There is evidence to support gender differences in parental investment. Buss found males display more distress about sexual infidelity, where they are more afraid of their partner cheating on them sexually. Females experience more distress concerning emotional infidelity as this displays lack of male commitment of resources. Therefore the concept of gender differences in parental investment is supported as it demonstrates that females invest emotionally and men invest resources into childrearing as the theory suggests.

**Influence of Childhood on Adult Relationships:**

Psychologists have suggested that our childhood experiences impact upon the type of relationships we later form in adult life. Parent-child relationships are seen as vertical relationships.

One factor that is suggested to impact adult relationships is the role of attachment during childhood. It is suggested if you were securely attached you are more likely to have a long term lasting relationship as your behaviour during childhood has later developed you to become sociable. Yet if as a child you were insecurely attached your adult relationship will struggle due to jealousy and insecurity. The theory states that these behaviours are shown because during childhood you are more reliant on others and less socially supported.

Shaver et al stated that Adult love is an integration of 3 behavioural systems acquired during infancy:

1. **Attachment** - Bowlby’s working model and continuity hypothesis demonstrates an infant’s primary attachment provides an internal working model of relationships leading the individual to expect the same in later relationships.

2. **Caregiving** - Social Learning Theory suggests through observation of the primary caregiver you receive knowledge of how one cares for another.

3. **Sexuality Systems** - Result of attachment type; Ainsworth’s three categories. This is learned through the relation to early attachment e.g. Individuals who suffered from avoidant attachment are more likely to hold the view sex without love is pleasurable.

AO2 –