

Luton Sixth Form College

Criminology Unit 2 Revision Guide



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UNIT 2: CRIMINOLOGICAL THEORIES		
LO1 - UNDERSTAND SOCIAL CONSTRUCTIONS OF CRIMINALITY		
ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	CONTENT	AMPLIFICATION
AC1.1 - Compare criminal behaviour and deviance	Criminal Behaviour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • social definition • legal definition • formal sanctions against criminals • variety of criminal acts Deviance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • norms, moral codes, and values • informal and formal sanctions against deviance • forms of deviance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Learners should have understanding of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how criminality and deviance is defined • acts that are criminal • acts that are deviant • acts that are both criminal and deviant • the implications of committing a criminal and/or deviant act. <p>Synoptic inks: Learners should also understand the impact of reporting on public perceptions of crime and deviance.</p>
AC1.2 - Explain the social construction of criminality	Social Construction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how laws change from culture to culture • how laws change over time • how laws are applied differently according to circumstances in which actions occur • why laws are different according to place, time, and culture 	<p>Synoptic links: Learners should understand how media and campaigns for change contribute to social constructions of criminality and unreported crime.</p>
LO2 - KNOW THEORIES OF CRIMINALITY		
AC2.1 - Describe biological theories of criminality	Biological Theories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • genetic theories • physiological theories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Learners should have knowledge of a range of genetic theories, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jacobs XYY study • twin and adoption studies ○ Learners should have knowledge of a range of physiological theories, e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lombroso • Sheldon
AC2.2 - Describe individualistic theories of criminality	Individualistic Theories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • learning theories • psychodynamic • psychological theories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Learners should have knowledge of a range of theories, e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bandura • Eysenck • Freud
AC2.3 - Describe sociological theories of criminality	Sociological Theories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • social structure • interactionism • realism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Learners should be able to summarise the key points of a range of theories, e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marxism • labelling • functionalism • left and right realism

LO3 - UNDERSTAND CAUSES OF CRIMINALITY		
AC3.1 - Analyse situations of criminality	Situations Relating To: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> different types of crime individual criminal behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learners should have knowledge of a range of crimes for example, crimes against the person/property, white collar, corporate crime, etc. Learners should be able to analyse a range of crimes and criminal behaviour and understand possible causes through the application of the theories learned for LO2.
AC3.2 - Evaluate the effectiveness of criminological theories to explain causes of criminality	Criminological Theories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> individualistic biological sociological 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learners should evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of criminological theories in terms of explaining crime.
LO4 UNDERSTAND CAUSES OF POLICY CHANGE		
AC4.1 - Assess the use of criminological theories in informing policy development	Criminological Theories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> individualistic biological sociological Policy Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> informal policy making populism formal policy making o crime control policies o state punishment policies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learners should be able to apply their knowledge of each of the theories and assess their use in informing policy on crime. This could include, for example, penal, zero tolerance, CCTV, restorative justice, multi-agency approach.
AC4.2 - Explain how social changes affect policy development	Social Changes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> social values, norms, and mores public perception of crime structure of society o demographic changes cultural changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learners should have an understanding of social changes and how they have affected policy development.
AC4.3 Discuss how campaigns affect policy making	Campaigns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> newspaper campaigns individual campaigns pressure group campaigns 	Synoptic links: Learners should use their knowledge and understanding of campaigning for change learned through Unit 1 to consider its effect on different types of policies.

PART 1: UNDERSTAND SOCIAL CONSTRUCTIONS OF CRIMINALITY

101 - UNDERSTAND SOCIAL CONSTRUCTIONS OF CRIMINALITY		
Assessment Criterion	Content	Amplification
AC1.1 - Compare criminal behaviour and deviance	Criminal Behaviour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • social definition • legal definition • formal sanctions against criminals • variety of criminal acts Deviance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • norms, moral codes, and values • informal and formal sanctions against deviance • forms of deviance 	Learners should have understanding of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how criminality and deviance is defined • acts that are criminal • acts that are deviant • acts that are both criminal and deviant • the implications of committing a criminal and/or deviant act. Synoptic inks: Learners should also understand the impact of reporting on public perceptions of crime and deviance.
AC1.2 – Explain the social construction of criminality	Social Construction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how laws change from culture to culture • how laws change over time • how laws are applied differently • according to circumstances in which actions occur why laws are different according to place, time, and culture	Synoptic inks: Learners should understand how media and campaigns for change contribute to social constructions of criminality and unreported crime.

CRIMINAL AND DEVIANT BEHAVIOUR

You should be able to explain why an act is deviant, criminal or both and be able to explain different type of criminal/deviant acts and the sanctions (punishments) against them.

DEVIANT AND CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR

Deviant behaviour is anything that deviates from the norms and values of society. Criminal behaviour is any behaviour which breaks the criminal code (laws) of society. Deviant behaviour can be criminal, but it isn't always.

DEVINAT & CRIMINAL	DEVIANT ONLY	CRIMINAL ONLY
Murder, Rape, theft, robbery, assault, rioting, being drunk and disorderly.	Lying to your partner, swearing in public, telling jokes at a funeral.	Downloading films or music (not paid for), keeping money from being over charged

THE SOCIAL DEFINITION OF CRIME

This definition of crime claims that what we come to define as a crime arises out of the interactions within society. For example, an adult having sex with a 14-year-old would generally be regarded as a criminal because there are laws against this in the UK and deviant because it also breaks social norms. However, this is not the case everywhere, there are countries where marriage at this age is both legal and does not contravene social norms.

THE LEGAL DEFINITION OF CRIME

- **Mens Rea (Guilty Mind):** Mens rea is a Latin phrase that means literally "guilty mind". In a case, the prosecution must prove that the defendant had a "guilty mind" while committing a crime to secure a conviction. For example, if charged with theft a person must have intended to permanently deprive someone of something which they did not legally own.
- **Actus Reus (Guilty Act):** Actus reus is the wrongful deed that comprises the physical components of a crime. The "guilty act" in theft is the actual taking of or unlawful control over property without the owner's consent.

TYPES OF CRIMINAL ACT	EXAMPLES
Fatal offences against the person	Murder, Manslaughter
Non-fatal offences against the person	Assault, battery, actual & grievous bodily harm
Offences against property	Theft, robbery, burglary
Sexual offences	Rape and indecent assault
Public order offences	Riot, affray and violent disorder
Drug offences	Possession or intent to supply

NON-COURT SANCTIONS	COURT SANCTIONS
Cautions: Given for minor crimes (e.g. graffiti, minor shoplifting). Person must admit guilt; not a criminal conviction but noted on criminal record.	Custodial Sentences: Offender loses freedom for a set period; sentence ranges from hours to life in prison or youth custody.
Conditional Cautions: Police-issued with conditions (e.g. repairing damage or attending drug rehabilitation).	Community Sentences: Served in the community; often involves unpaid work or drug/alcohol treatment programmes.
Penalty Notices: Given for offences like cannabis possession, minor theft, or being drunk and disorderly.	Fines: Financial penalty paid to courts; amount based on crime seriousness and offender's financial situation.

TYPES OF DEVIANCE

Admired Behaviour – this is behaviour that is out of the ordinary but highly regarded, e.g., risking your life to save others

Odd Behaviour – for example hoarding behaviour, keeping lots of cats, getting many (too many tattoos) or having odd opinions and beliefs

Bad Behaviour – this is what we normally think of as deviant behaviour and covers low level criminality such as antisocial behaviour right up to very serious acts such as sexual assault or murder.

NORMS, VALUES AND MORAL CODES

Norms – unspoken rules of behaviour – e.g., when we get on train carriage with lots of empty seats, we normally select a seat that wouldn't involve sitting beside someone else

Values – These are what people think should happen, for example in the UK freedom of speech is widely held value, others include tolerance and equality of opportunity.

Moral Codes – These are collections of norms and values which to make a code, a pattern of behaviour many cultures have these (e.g., Countries, the army, criminal gangs).

SANCTIONS AGAINST DEVIANCE

Informal Sanctions	Formal Sanctions
Frowning	Being grounded
Name calling and shaming	Detentions
Ignoring/Ostracising	Imprisonment/Death Penalty

ACTS WHICH VARY ACROSS, PLACE, TIME AND CULURE:

You should know example of acts which vary across place, time and culture. Importantly you need to be able to explain why these acts change, for example why is it unlawful to have more than one wife in the UK, but not in Saudi Arabia

HOMOSEXUALITY (1) – CULTURE AND PLACE

What is it?	Sexual acts between members of the same sex.
Where is it a crime?	Many countries outlaw male homosexuality (at least 75) and 45 outlaw lesbian activity. Some countries ban promotion of homosexuality e.g., Russia, although not the practice of.
Where is it legal?	UK, Europe, North and South America, and Oceania
Reason 1: Religion	Some religions condemn homosexuality, and this has influenced the law
Reason 2: Tradition	Some 'traditional' societies disapprove of some aspects of modern ways of life

POLYGAMY – CULTURE AND PLACE

What is it?	Having more than one husband or wife at the same time. Includes polygyny and polyandry .
Where is it a crime?	North and South America; Europe; Oceania – some African and Asian Countries particularly where Christianity was a major influence.
Where is it legal?	Mainly in certain Muslim countries e.g., Malaysia and Indonesia; Other countries including the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and India (significant Muslim minorities) and where traditional religions still dominate such as many African countries.
Reason 1: Religion	For example, the Qu'ran permits Muslim men to take up to 4 wives – only Christianity (out of the major religions) requires monogamy.
Reason 2: Tradition	Polygamy was the most common form of relationship for most people throughout history. It is retained in many African societies, and other traditional cultures and societies such as those found in Papua New Guinea and Australia

CANNABIS – PLACE

What is it?	Sexual acts between members of the same sex.
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CANNABIS – PLACE

What is it?	Using cannabis products containing high levels of THC.
Where is it a crime?	Cannabis remains illegal in most countries in Asia , Africa , and Oceania . In Europe , it is generally illegal, but some countries permit limited medical use. In the US , it is federally illegal but allowed in certain states.
Where is it legal?	Cannabis is legal for recreational or medical use in Canada , Uruguay , and some US states . The Netherlands tolerates its use in coffee shops, and Portugal has decriminalised all drugs. Thailand recently legalised medical cannabis.
Reason: Medical Understanding	Cannabis has been shown to alleviate symptoms of certain medical conditions, such as chronic pain, epilepsy, and nausea caused by chemotherapy.
Reason: Personal Freedom	Many argue that individuals should have the right to choose whether to use cannabis, as long as it does not harm others. This seems to be the attitude adopted by an increasing number of countries

JAY WALKING – PLACE (AND CULTURE)	
What is it?	Jaywalking is when a person crosses a road without using a designated pedestrian crossing or does so in a way that's unsafe.
Where is it a crime?	It's a crime in countries like the USA, Singapore, and Germany, where strict rules exist for crossing roads.
Where is it legal?	In the UK, jaywalking is not a crime. Pedestrians can cross the road wherever they like, as long as it's safe.
Reason: Emphasis on Personal Responsibility	In the UK and similar places, laws prioritise personal freedom and trust pedestrians to make safe decisions.
Reason: Car Centric Culture	In countries where jaywalking is a crime, the focus on cars over pedestrians often shapes traffic laws to favour vehicles and control movement.

VAGRANCY – TIME	
What is it?	Vagrancy is the act of being homeless or wandering without a fixed home or employment, often seen as loitering or begging.
Is it a crime?	Historically, vagrancy was a crime in both the UK and the US. However, enforcement has decreased, and many laws have been repealed or updated.
Has this changed?	Yes, in the UK, the Vagrancy Act of 1824 is being phased out, with growing recognition of homelessness as a social issue rather than a crime.
Reason 1: Greater Awareness of Causes	Vagrancy used to be seen as a moral failing by the person who was homeless. However, increased awareness of social and economic causes of homelessness, such as poverty and mental health issues has led to greater understanding
Reason 2: More focus on rehabilitation	There has been a shift in societal attitudes, focusing on support and rehabilitation rather than punishment for vulnerable populations, such as vagrants, sex workers and drug users.

HOMOSEXUALITY (2) – TIME	
What is it?	Sexual acts between members of the same sex.
When was it a crime (UK)?	Homosexual acts were criminalised under the Buggery Act of 1533 and remained illegal until 1967, when the Sexual Offences Act partially decriminalised them for men aged 21 and over in England and Wales.
What has changed?	Homosexuality has been decriminalised, with same-sex marriage legalised in England, Wales, and Scotland in 2014. Discrimination based on sexual orientation is now illegal.
Reason 1 - Secularisation	The decline in the influence of religious institutions and beliefs has led to laws being shaped by human rights rather than religious doctrines.
Reason 1 – Greater Tolerance	Social attitudes have shifted towards acceptance and equality, driven by activism, education, and visibility of LGBTQ+ communities.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT – TIME	
How has this changed?	The use of the death penalty gradually reduced, limited to crimes like murder and treason, and was abolished in the UK in 1965.
Reason (1): Not necessary	The development of prisons during the 19th and 20th centuries provided alternative punishments for serious crimes.
Reason (2): miscarriages of justice	If an innocent person is executed due to a wrongful conviction, there is no way to reverse the error. Famous UK examples include Timothy Evans, who was hanged in 1950 for a murder he didn't commit, and Derek Bentley, executed in 1953 despite questionable evidence. These cases highlighted the dangers of irreversible punishment.
Reason (3): not a deterrent	Most serious crimes, such as murder, are often committed in the heat of the moment, without consideration of punishment.

CIRCUMSTANCE:

You should be able to explain how criminal acts are treated differently depending on the circumstances of the act, e.g. the offender age when they committed the crime

AC1.2 - HOW DO CIRCUMSTANCE AFFECT CRIMINAL LAW

LAWS AFFECTED	HOW THIS CHANGES WITH CIRCUMSTANCE(S)
AGE OF CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY	In England and Wales , the age of criminal responsibility is 10 (Children and Young Persons Act 1963). Children under 10 cannot be charged as they're seen as too young to fully understand their actions. Cases involving children aged 10+ usually go to youth courts, but serious crimes like murder are tried in adult Crown Courts. High-profile cases (James Bulger, Southport murders, Axel Rudakubana) highlight debates about whether this age is appropriate. Critics argue it's too low compared to Europe and suggest changes to better balance justice, maturity, and seriousness of offences.
PAST CONVICTIONS	Offenders with previous convictions usually receive harsher punishments, like longer sentences or stricter probation, due to a higher risk of reoffending. First-time offenders, however, often receive lighter penalties focused on rehabilitation rather than punishment (e.g., fines or community orders). Reoffending during a conditional discharge or suspended sentence triggers tougher penalties, reinforcing consequences and acting as a deterrent.
HOMICIDE (Murder vs. Manslaughter)	In murder cases, defences like diminished responsibility (mental illness) or loss of control (extreme provocation) can reduce charges from murder to manslaughter, leading to lighter sentences. For other crimes, defences like self-defence, consent, or automatism (loss of control due to medical conditions or external factors) may lead to acquittal. These defences ensure fairness by recognising situations where defendants lack full control or intent.

EXAM PRACTICE – AC1.1 and 1.2

MAY 2017

Compare criminality and deviance with reference to relevant examples.
– [5 Marks]

MAY 2018

Describe what is meant by the term 'deviance'. [3 Marks]

Using examples from the scenario, explain behaviour that could be described as criminal, deviant, or both. [5 Marks]

MAY 2019

Discuss, using examples, how laws have changed over time.
[7 Marks]

MAY 2022

Explain how laws
are applied
differently
according to the
circumstances in
which actions
occur.[6]

PART 2: KNOW THEORIES OF CRIMINALITY and UNDERSTAND THEORIES OF CRIMINALITY*

* (apply and evaluate)

LO2 - KNOW THEORIES OF CRIMINALITY		
Assessment Criterion	Content	Amplification
AC2.1 - Describe biological theories of criminality	Biological Theories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> genetic theories physiological theories 	<p>Learners should have knowledge of a range of genetic theories, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jacobs XYY study twin and adoption studies <p>Learners should have knowledge of a range of physiological theories, e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lombroso Sheldon
AC2.2 - Describe individualistic theories of criminality	Individualistic Theories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> learning theories psychodynamic psychological theories 	<p>Learners should have knowledge of a range of theories, e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bandura Eysenck Freud
AC2.3- Describe sociological theories of criminality	Sociological Theories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> social structure interactionism realism 	<p>Learners should be able to summarise the key points of a range of theories, e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marxism labelling functionalism left and right realism

LO3 - UNDERSTAND CAUSES OF CRIMINALITY		
Assessment Criterion	Content	Amplification
AC3.1- Analyse (apply) situations of criminality	Situations Relating To: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> different types of crime individual criminal behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learners should have knowledge of a range of crimes for example, crimes against the person/property, white collar, corporate crime, etc. Learners should be able to analyse a range of crimes and criminal behaviour and understand possible causes through the application of the theories learned for LO2
AC3.1- Evaluate the effectiveness of criminological theories to explain causes of criminality	Criminological Theories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> individualistic biological sociological 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learners should evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of criminological theories in terms of explaining crime.

Biological Theories – Physiological Theories

LO2 - KNOW THEORIES OF CRIMINALITY

Assessment Criterion	Content	Amplification
AC2.1 - Describe biological theories of criminality	Biological Theories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> genetic theories physiological theories 	Learners should have knowledge of a range of genetic theories, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jacobs XYY study twin and adoption studies Learners should have knowledge of a range of physiological theories, e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lombroso Sheldon

LOMBROSO'S ATAVISTIC FORM THEORY

In 1876, Cesare Lombroso published 'The Criminal Man', suggesting that criminals shared physical traits with early humans or apes. Influenced by Darwin's theory of evolution, Lombroso called these criminals 'atavistic' or evolutionary throwbacks.

Lombroso listed specific features he believed criminals had:

- High cheekbones
- Flattened or upturned nose
- Low, sloping forehead
- Large ears and jaw
- Unusually long arms compared to legs

He thought these features could predict the type of crime someone might commit. For example, murderers had bloodshot eyes and curly hair, while sex offenders had thick lips and protruding ears. Other signs of a 'born criminal' included being insensitive to pain, using criminal slang, having tattoos, and unemployment.

Lombroso concluded that these traits showed criminals were more primitive and argued they were not fully responsible for their actions because these characteristics were inherited. Lombroso based his theory on studying over 50,000 bodies, including post-mortem examinations and the faces of living criminals. In one study of 383 Italian criminals, 21% had one atavistic trait, and 43% had at least five.



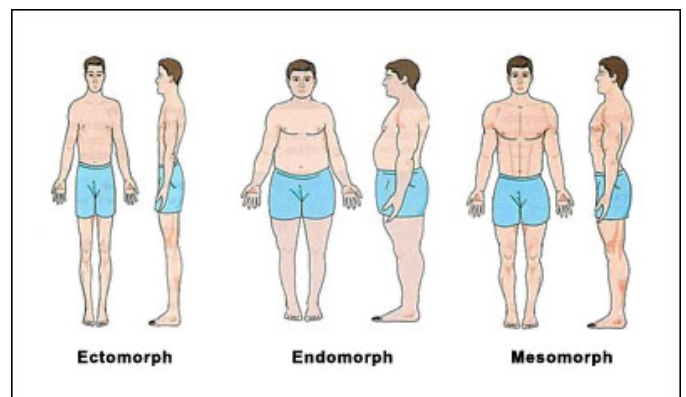
Examples of physiognomy of criminals illustrated from L'uomo Delinquente (Criminal Man), 1876, by Cesare Lombroso.

WILLIAM SHELTON'S THEORY

William Sheldon's Theory William Sheldon linked body types with personality traits, proposing three distinct categories:

- **Endomorphic** (fat and soft): sociable and relaxed
- **Ectomorphic** (thin and fragile): introverted and restrained
- **Mesomorphic** (muscular and hard): aggressive and adventurous

Sheldon argued mesomorphs were more likely to commit crimes due to their impulsive nature and willingness to take risks.



LOMBROSO'S RESEARCH

Lombroso developed his theory by studying over 50,000 criminals through post-mortem examinations and observations of living individuals. In a study of 383 Italian criminals, he found 21% had one atavistic trait and 43% had at least five.

MORE MODERN RESEARCH

Lombroso's ideas, a 2016 study by Wu et al. found facial features could indicate criminality. An artificial intelligence program correctly identified 83% of criminals among 1,856 Chinese men, with only 6% being incorrectly labelled.

SHELDON'S RESEARCH

Sheldon argued mesomorphs were more likely to commit crimes due to their impulsive nature and willingness to take risks. He tested this idea by studying photographs of nearly naked college students and juvenile delinquents, rating them on a mesomorphic scale from 1 (low) to 7 (high). Delinquents scored higher on mesomorphy (4.6) compared to college

Evaluation – Physiological Theories of Crime

Lombroso's 'Atavistic' Theory

STRENGTHS OF LOMBROSO'S THEORY

- ✓ **SUPPORTING RESEARCH:** Studies like Wu et al. (2016) provide support for Lombroso's theory. Using AI to analyse 1,856 Chinese men, half of whom had criminal records, the study found that AI correctly identified 83% of criminals based on facial features, with only 6% wrongly identified. This suggests there may be a link between certain facial characteristics and criminal tendencies, supporting Lombroso's idea that physical traits can reveal criminality.
- ✓ **SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTION:** Lombroso was the first to apply a scientific approach to criminology. Before his work, people believed criminals were simply evil or made bad choices entirely of their own free will. Lombroso challenged this by suggesting that biology, rather than morality, could explain criminal behaviour, laying the foundation for modern criminology.

LIMITATIONS OF LOMBROSO'S THEORY

- ✗ **NOT EVERYONE WITH ATAVISTIC FEATURES IS A CRIMINAL:** Most people with the physical traits Lombroso described are not criminals. If these features caused crime, they would always be linked to criminal behaviour, but this isn't true.
- ✗ **IGNORED OTHER CAUSES OF CRIME:** Lombroso didn't consider that disfigurements or deformities might result from accidents, disease, or poor living conditions, rather than being signs of criminal traits.
- ✗ **CRIMINALS COME FROM DIFFICULT BACKGROUNDS:** Many individuals might turn to crime because of poverty, lack of opportunities, or being treated unfairly, not because of their physical appearance. Social exclusion, rather than biology, often pushes people toward criminal behaviour.

Sheldon's 'Somatype' Theory

STRENGTHS OF SHELDON'S THEORY

- ✓ **MESOMORPHS AND CRIME** – A study by Glueck and Glueck (1956) found that 60% of young offenders were mesomorphs (muscular and athletic), compared to 31% of non-offenders. This big difference is worth looking into.
- ✓ **MODERN RESEARCH SUPPORTS A LINK** – Studies, like those by Putwain and Sammons (2002), suggest there might be a connection between body type and crime. This doesn't mean body type causes crime, but it hints at a possible relationship.
- ✓ **SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH** – Sheldon's studies were more scientific than earlier theories, like Lombroso's. He used control groups of non-criminals to make better comparisons.

LIMITATIONS OF SHELDON'S THEORY

- ✗ **NOT ALL MESOMORPHS ARE CRIMINALS:** – The theory assumes a strong link between **mesomorphs** and crime but overlooks that not all **mesomorphs** are criminals.
- ✗ **ECTOMORPHS & ENDOMORPHS CAN BE CRIMINALS TOO.** He doesn't explain why slimmer (ectomorphs) or rounder (endomorphs) people also commit crimes. This makes his theory too narrow.
- ✗ **BODIES CHANGE** – A person's somatotype is not fixed. As people age, eat differently, or exercise, their body shapes change. Sheldon doesn't explain if their personalities or chances of committing crimes change too.
- ✗ **SOCIAL INFLUENCE AND OPPORTUNITY** – Muscular mesomorphs might be invited into risky or criminal activities by friends. If they succeed, they may keep doing it. Sheldon's theory doesn't fully consider how social environment influences crime.

EXAM PRACTICE – PHYSIOLOGICAL THEORIES

MAY 2017

One theory of crime was based on the physical measurements of Italian prisoners compared with those of Italian soldiers. This theory proposed that criminals had been born with specific features. Another key theory argued that an individual's body shape is correlated with becoming a criminal.

With reference to the text above, describe the main features of one physiological theory of criminality. [6]

Describe the one weakness of the physiological theory described [6]

MAY 2018

Jimmy, aged 22, has suffered from verbal and physical abuse for most of his life. This is because he has large ears, a large jaw, and very long arms. Jimmy never knew his father and lived with his mother and her succession of boyfriends. Jimmy has recently undergone some medical tests which have revealed he has an extra Y chromosome. He has also been hanging around with local criminals and is due to appear before a local magistrates' court on a second charge of grievous bodily harm.

(a) Describe one physiological theory of criminality.[5]

(b) Analyse how **one** genetic theory of criminality may account for Jimmy's criminal behaviour.[7]

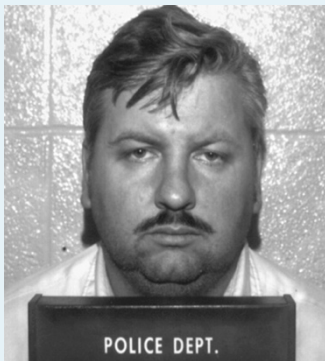
Biological Theories – Genetic Theories

LO2 - KNOW THEORIES OF CRIMINALITY

Assessment Criterion	Content	Amplification
AC2.1 - Describe biological theories of criminality	Biological Theories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> genetic theories physiological theories 	Learners should have knowledge of a range of genetic theories, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jacobs XYY study twin and adoption studies Learners should have knowledge of a range of physiological theories, e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lombroso Sheldon

XYY THEORY – SUPERMALES

This theory suggests that some criminal behaviour could be caused by unusual chromosomes. Normally, females have XX chromosomes & males have XY chromosomes. However, some men are born with an extra Y chromosome (XYY), and these men are sometimes called 'super males'. Research shows that XYY males appear more frequently in prison populations.



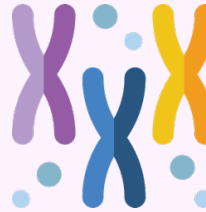
About 15 per 1,000 prisoners have XYY syndrome, compared to only 1 per 1,000 people in the general public. For example, the serial killer John Wayne Gacy, who sexually assaulted, tortured, and murdered many victims, was thought to have this XYY abnormality.

BIOLOGICAL THEORIES

Biological theories focus on the idea that physical characteristics make some people more likely to commit crime than others. Such criminal tendencies can be genetic and therefore inherited. Hence, it could be said that the person is born bad.

CHROMOSOMES

Chromosomes are structures found in all cell nuclei, they carry the DNA, which is the genetic information that all living things are based on.



Humans have 22 pairs of chromosomes plus the two sex chromosomes (XX in females and XY in males) for a total of 46.

These boys are identical or monozygotic twins (MZ) - they share 100% of the same genes. The girls on the other hand are dizygotic (DZ) and only share only 50% of their genes.



If the boys are more similar than the girls on some measure, that is likely to be because of the extra genes shared by both of them, as the amount of environment shared by both sets of twins is 100%

CONCORDANCE RATE: Is rate of **agreement** (match) between on a trait between pairs of twins; normally expressed as a percentage. The concordance rates for MZ twins should be higher than DZ twins if genes play a part.

TWIN STUDIES

Identical twins are called monozygotic twins, which means they come from the same fertilised egg and have exactly the same DNA. Non-identical (fraternal) twins are called dizygotic twins - they come from two different eggs and two different sperm, so they only share about half their genes, like any other siblings.

	Monozygotic Twins	Dizygotic Twins
AKA	Identical Twins	Fraternal Twins or Non-Identical Twins
Genes Shared	100%	50%

Twin studies are useful because both types of twins usually grow up in the same environment - same home, same family, often the same school and friends. But the key difference is their genetics: identical twins share 100% of their genes, while non-identical twins share only 50%. So, if researchers find that identical twins are more likely to both show the same behaviour (like smoking, drinking, liking football, or being attracted to the same sex) compared to non-identical twins, it suggests that genes play an important role in that behaviour.

ADOPTION STUDIES

Another way to examine the influence of genes and environment is to look at what happens when children are adopted. Adopted children have a genetic link with their biological parents but (nature) but the environmental link (nurture) is broken as they grow up in a new family.

One study **Hutchings and Mednick (1975)** looked at over 14,000 adopted boys. They found that a large number of the boys who had criminal convictions had biological parents with criminal convictions.

TWIN STUDIES AND CRIMINALITY

One of the earliest twins' studies was reported by the German physician **Johannes Lange (1929)**. He found that MZ twins showed a much higher degrees of concordance for criminal behaviour than DZ twins. **Christiansen (1977)** also studied twin. He found that concordance rates of 35% for MZ twins and only 13% for DZ twins in 3,586 pairs of twins.

Evaluation – Genetic Explanations

XYY THEORY

STRENGTHS OF XYY THEORY

- ✓ **SUPPORTIVE RESEARCH** – Some studies support Jacob's XYY theory, showing that men with XYY chromosomes are more common in prisons than in the general population. For example, around 15 out of every 1,000 prisoners have XYY syndrome, compared to just 1 in every 1,000 people in society. This suggests a possible link between XYY and criminal behaviour.
- ✓ **CASE STUDY SUPPORT** – John Wayne Gacy, a serial killer who tortured and murdered at least 33 young men in the USA, is believed to have had XYY syndrome. His extreme violence is sometimes used to support the idea that XYY men may be more aggressive or more likely to commit crimes support the idea that XYY men are more aggressive or prone to violence.

LIMITATIONS OF XYY THEORY

- ✗ **INCONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE** – Not all research supports this theory. For example, Theilgaard (1984) studied XYY men and found they were not more aggressive than men with normal XY chromosomes. This challenges the idea that XYY always leads to violent behaviour.
- ✗ **GENETICS ALONE DON'T EXPLAIN EVERYTHING** – Other studies have shown that genetic abnormalities like XYY are found in people across the general population—most of whom are not violent or criminal. This means genes alone cannot fully explain why someone might act aggressively or commit crime.

TWIN STUDIES

STRENGTHS OF TWIN STUDIES

- ✓ **CASE STUDY SUPPORT** – The Kray Twins – The Kray twins, Ronnie and Reggie, were identical (MZ) twins and both became involved in organised crime in London during the 1950s and 60s. They were well known for violent acts, including armed robbery, arson, and even murder.
Because they shared the same genes and were raised in the same environment, their case supports the idea that genetics may play a role in criminal behaviour, as both showed very similar patterns of offending.
- ✓ **SUPPORTIVE RESEARCH** – Christiansen studied criminal behaviour in identical (MZ) and non-identical (DZ) twins. He found that if one identical twin committed a crime, the other did too in 33% of cases. For non-identical twins, this happened only 12% of the time.
Since identical twins share all their genes and non-identical twins share only half, this difference suggests that genetics might play a big part in criminal behaviour. Both types of twins grow up in similar environments, so the main difference is their genes.

LIMITATIONS OF TWIN STUDIES

- ✗ **MZ TWINS AND DZ TWINS HAVE DIFFERENT ENVIRONMENTS** – One big issue is that MZ and DZ twins aren't always treated the same. MZ twins look more alike and are often dressed the same, given the same toys, and treated more similarly by others. DZ twins might look different or even be different genders, so they could be treated differently. This means that the environment might not be as equal as we think—and the differences in behaviour might not just be down to genes.
- ✗ This is important because it means that we cannot assume that offending behaviour is inherited on the base of twin studies and must look to alternative methods (e.g. adoption studies) to sort this out.

EXAM PRACTICE – GENETIC THEORIES

Scenario: The nature versus nurture debate concerns the extent to which each account for behaviours such as committing crime. The nature side focuses on inherited or genetic biological factors. The nurture aspect is concerned about acquired or learned characteristics that are influenced by external factors.

(a) Explain how biological theories explain the causes of criminal behaviour.

(6 Marks)

(b) Describe one biological theory of criminality.

(6 Marks)

(c) Evaluate the effectiveness of one biological theory in explaining criminality

(6 Marks)

(d) Explain two strengths of this theory in explaining criminality

(4 Marks)

(d) Explain two weaknesses of this theory in explaining criminality

(4 Marks)

Individualistic Theories – Learning Theories

LO2 - KNOW THEORIES OF CRIMINALITY

Assessment Criterion	Content	Amplification
AC2.2 - Describe individualistic theories of criminality	Individualistic Theories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • learning theories • psychodynamic • psychological theories 	Learners should have knowledge of a range of theories, e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bandura ○ Eysenck ○ Freud

CLASSICAL CONDITIONING

Classical conditioning is learning through **association** and was first demonstrated by Ivan Pavlov. Pavlov found that dogs could be **conditioned** to salivate to the sound of a bell if that sound was repeatedly presented at the same time as they were given food. Gradually, Pavlov's dogs learned to associate the sound of the bell (a stimulus) with the food (another stimulus) and would produce the salivation (a reflex response) every time they heard the sound.

Animals learn new associations in classical conditioning

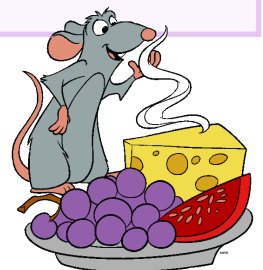


OPERANT CONDITIONING

Skinner believed that the best way to understand behaviour is to look at the causes of an action and its consequences. In operant conditioning there are three types of consequences of behaviour:

- **Positive reinforcement** is receiving a reward when a certain behaviour is performed; for example, praise from a teacher for answering a question correctly in class.
- **Negative reinforcement** occurs when an animal (or human) avoids something unpleasant. When a student hands in an essay so as not to be told off, the avoidance of something unpleasant is the negative reinforcement.
- **Punishment** is an unpleasant consequence of behaviour, for example being shouted at by the teacher for talking during a lesson.

Food is an example of a positive reinforcement for Remy the Rat



SUTHERLAND'S DIFFERENTIAL ASSOCIATION THEORY

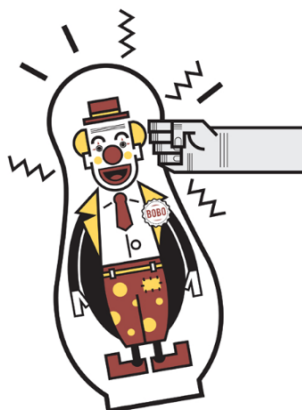
Sutherland (1939) said people become criminals by learning positive attitudes about crime and imitating criminal acts from others around them. A strength of this **differential association theory** is that it matches other learning theories, suggesting people commit crimes because they've learned criminal behaviour through positive reinforcement, imitation, or seeing others rewarded for crime.

ALBERT BANDURA'S SOCIAL LEARNING THEORY

Social Learning Theory proposes that we learn all of our behaviour from others. This theory can be used to explain all kinds of behaviour, including criminal behaviour.

Bandura (1961) conducted a controversial experiment examining the process by which new forms of behaviour – and in particular, aggression – are learnt. The initial study, along with Bandura's follow-up research, would later be known as the Bobo doll experiment. The experiment revealed that children imitate the aggressive behaviour of adults. The findings support Bandura's social learning theory, which emphasises the influence of observational learning on behaviour.

Bandura also conducted a number of follow-up studies during the 1960s which examined how witnessing a third party being rewarded or punished for behaving in a particular manner can influence a bystander's own actions. He concluded that vicarious learning, as well as direct rewards and punishments, can impact on an observer's behaviour.



ROLE MODELS

Role models are people that we look up to and respect, such as parents, older siblings, peers, and people and characters we see in the media. We go through a process of **identification**, where we decide we want to be like these people; we watch what they do and try to copy them. These are the processes of **observation** and **imitation**.

VICARIOUS REINFORCEMENT

This is a type of learning that occurs when a person sees another rewarded for their behaviour. Vicarious means literally experiences through others. The important thing is that the reward is experienced by the person whose behaviour is being imitated.

Evaluation – Learning Theories

SOCIAL LEARNING THEORY

STRENGTHS OF SOCIAL LEARNING THEORY



RESEARCH SHOWS THAT PEOPLE CAN LEARN BEHAVIOURS BY WATCHING AND COPYING OTHERS – especially those they see as role models. This idea was demonstrated in Albert Bandura's Bobo doll experiment. In this study, children watched an adult behave aggressively towards a toy doll. Later, when given the same doll, the children who had observed aggression were more likely to imitate the violent behaviour.

This suggests that people, especially young individuals, may learn criminal behaviour by observing others, particularly if they see family members, friends, or media figures engaging in crime and gaining rewards from it..



THE ROLE OF MEDIA IN ENCOURAGING CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR – Social learning theory also highlights how films, television, music, and social media can influence behavior. Some media portray crime in a way that makes it appear exciting, glamorous, or rewarding, which can encourage people to imitate what they see. For example, in films or TV shows where criminals are shown as powerful or respected, young viewers may perceive criminal behavior as acceptable or even desirable. Social media can also contribute to this, as illegal activities are sometimes shared and celebrated online, making them seem more socially acceptable. reward), in fact for most children it is discouraged (punished), yet aggression is still acquired by many. By looking at the social learning context in which this learning takes places we are able to better explain how this might happen.

LIMITATIONS OF SOCIAL LEARNING THEORY



IT DOES NOT EXPLAIN WHY SOME PEOPLE DO NOT COPY CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR– While social learning theory explains how people can learn criminal behaviour by observing others, it does not fully explain why some individuals in the same environment do not turn to crime.

For example, two siblings may grow up in the same household with criminal influences, but one may become involved in crime while the other does not. This suggests that other factors, such as personality, moral values, or biological influences, may also play a role in determining whether someone engages in criminal behaviour..



DOES NOT CONSIDER BIOLOGICAL OR PSYCHOLOGICAL EXPLANATIONS FOR CRIME – Social learning theory focuses on the influence of the environment but does not fully consider biological or psychological explanations for crime. Research has shown that factors such as genetics, brain chemistry, and mental health disorders can affect a person's likelihood of committing crime. For example, some studies suggest that individuals with certain brain abnormalities or low impulse control may be more prone to violent behavior. This means that criminal behavior cannot always be explained solely by social influences, as personal characteristics may also play an important role.

EXAM PRACTICE - LEARNING THEORIES

OCT 2020

(Adapted from question 2)

Scenario: Daniel and Arnold, 24, are identical twins who were separated at birth. Arnold remained with his birth parents while Daniel was adopted by a respectable and wealthy couple who have provided him with an affluent standard of living.

Arnold's parents have pursued a life of crime and Arnold has followed their example: he has been to prison twice for dishonesty offences including theft and fraud.

Daniel also has a criminal record: he has been caught stealing to fund his unusual hobby of collecting exotic animals such as snakes, lizards, and scorpions.

(a) Briefly describe one **individualistic** theory of criminality.

(b) Evaluate the effectiveness of individualistic theories in explaining the causes of criminality. [9]

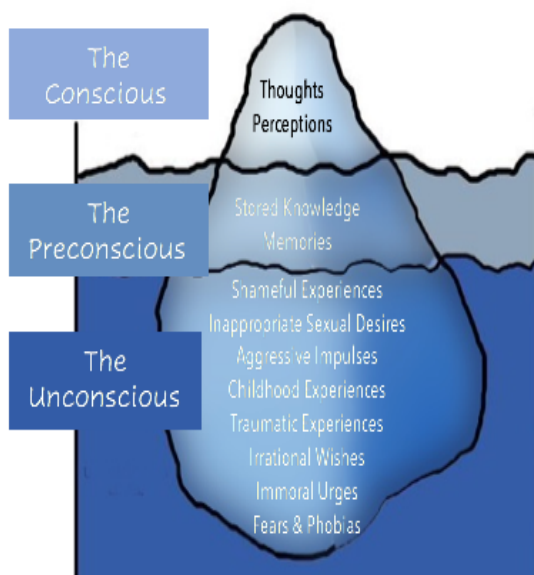
Individualistic Theories – Psychodynamic Theory

LO2 - KNOW THEORIES OF CRIMINALITY

Assessment Criterion	Content	Amplification
AC2.2 - Describe individualistic theories of criminality	Individualistic Theories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • learning theories • psychodynamic • psychological theories 	Learners should have knowledge of a range of theories, e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bandura ○ Eysenck ○ Freud

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE UNCONSCIOUS MIND

Sigmund Freud was a doctor working with women who were experiencing a range of physical symptoms known as 'hysteria'. The cause of hysteria was a mystery, but Freud became convinced that the roots of such problems lay deep in a hidden part of the mind known as the **unconscious**. Freud developed a model of the human mind as being like an iceberg, with most of it hidden beneath the surface.



FREUD'S THEORY OF PERSONALITY

Freud described personality as having three parts: the **id**, **ego**, and **superego**. The **id** develops first and contains our basic drives and impulses. It's selfish, demands immediate pleasure, and reacts aggressively when frustrated. As children grow, they learn that instant satisfaction isn't always acceptable, so the **ego** develops. The **ego** is realistic and tries to meet the **id**'s needs in ways acceptable to society. Later, the **superego** emerges, acting like an internal parent or conscience, guiding behaviour according to learned morals and standards. The **superego** encourages us to behave in socially acceptable and morally correct ways.

A HEALTHY PERSONALITY IS A BALANCED PERSONALITY

Freud believed all three parts of personality (**id**, **ego**, **superego**) influence criminal behaviour, but the **superego** plays a particularly important role. An **id-dominated** person tends to be impulsive and aggressive, disregarding consequences to satisfy immediate desires. An **ego-dominated** individual might follow rules superficially but can still behave immorally—for example, by committing state crimes that appear justified. The **superego**, acting as our conscience, is key in guiding moral decisions. If it's weak or under-developed, people may not experience guilt, making it easier to commit crimes (as seen with sociopaths). However, even an excessively strict **superego** can cause problems; overwhelming guilt and anxiety might push someone towards criminal behaviour as a way to cope. Therefore, a balanced, well-developed **superego** is crucial for preventing criminality.

Id Dominant	Person is dominated by basic biological needs and urges - food, drink, sex, aggression and so on. Personality will be perceived by others as crude and antisocial.
Ego Dominant	Person will follow rules but be inflexible. Ego dominant individuals will be obedient, but choices made are not based on what is right or wrong, simply is allowed by the rules.
Superego Dominant	Person will be very judgemental and will expect perfection from all - people including own self, will always fall short against this personality's high moral standards.

JOHN BOWLBY & THE MATERNAL DEPRIVATION HYPOTHESIS

John Bowlby was a psychologist who was heavily influenced by Freud. In the 1940's Bowlby outlined the **maternal deprivation hypothesis**; this was the idea that frequent or prolonged disruptions to the child's primary attachment relationships would have serious consequences for the later development of the child and on into adulthood.

- An inability to form attachments in the future
- Affectionless psychopathy (inability to feel remorse)
- Delinquency (behavioural problems in adolescence)
- Problems with Cognitive Development

THE 44 JUVENILE THIEVES STUDY, BOWLBY (1944)

Bowlby (1944) supported his claims with his own investigation of 44 juvenile thieves. He found, through interviews with the thieves and their families, that 14 of the sample he studied showed personality and behavioural characteristics that could be classified as '**affectionless psychopathy**' and had experienced prolonged separations from their mothers. Bowlby concluded that the effects of maternal deprivation had caused affectionless and delinquent behaviour among the juvenile thieves.

Evaluation – Psychodynamic Explanations

FREUD'S THEORY

STRENGTHS OF PSCHODYNAMIC THEORY

- ✓ **Focus on Childhood Experiences** – Freud's theory highlights how childhood experiences can shape personality and behaviour. If someone goes through trauma, neglect, or has an unstable family life, it can increase the chance of them developing antisocial or criminal behaviour later on. This links with other ideas, like attachment theory, which also says early life experiences can affect behaviour.
- ✓ **Id, Ego, and Superego Can Explain Criminal Decision-Making** – Freud's ideas about the mind help explain why people might commit crimes. The id wants instant pleasure, without thinking about what's right or wrong. If a person hasn't been taught good morals or self-control (a weak superego), they might find it harder to resist urges – leading to crime.

LIMITATIONS OF PSCHODYNAMIC THEORY

- ✗ **Too Much Focus on Childhood and Parenting:** Not everyone with a bad childhood becomes a criminal, and many people with stable upbringings still commit crimes. This suggests other factors – like poverty, peer pressure, or mental health – also play a big role, not just childhood experiences.
- ✗ **Lack of Scientific Evidence:** Freud's ideas, especially things like the unconscious mind, are very hard to test or prove with science. Today, many psychologists and criminologists prefer theories backed by evidence, such as brain studies or behaviour experiments, rather than ideas that can't be properly measured.

BOWLBY'S MATERNAL DEPRIVATION THEORY

STRENGTHS OF MATERNAL DEPRIVATION THEORY

- ✓ **The bond with parents is very important** – Bowlby's theory suggests that early childhood experiences, especially the bond between a child and their main caregiver, play a key role in shaping behaviour. He believed that a secure emotional attachment should form in the first five years of life. If this bond is broken or never properly formed – for example, due to neglect, separation, or a lack of love – it can lead to emotional and behavioural problems and in some case criminality.
- ✓ **Bowlby linked this to something called affectionless psychopathy** – this is where a person finds it hard to feel guilt, empathy, or affection for others. This can lead to harmful behaviours like lying, stealing, or hurting others without remorse. These traits are often seen in **juvenile delinquents** – young people who commit crimes or show antisocial behaviour.

LIMITATIONS OF MATERNAL DEPRIVATION THEORY

- ✗ **Not All Children with Maternal Deprivation Become Criminals** – not all children who experience separation or poor attachment from their mother go on to become criminals. Many grow up to be emotionally healthy and law-abiding, which suggests that maternal deprivation alone cannot fully explain criminal behaviour. Other factors – such as peer influence, poverty, education, or individual personality – also play a significant role in shaping behaviour.
- ✗ **Overemphasis on the Mother's Role** – Bowlby's theory places too much emphasis on the mother as the primary attachment figure. In reality, children can form strong emotional bonds with fathers, grandparents, or other carers. Focusing only on the mother overlooks the importance of wider social relationships and support systems in a child's development.

EXAM PRACTICE - PSYCHODYNAMIC THEORY

OCT 2018

(Adapted from question 3)

Jimmy, aged 22, has suffered from verbal and physical abuse for most of his life. This is because he has large ears, a large jaw, and very long arms. Jimmy never knew his father and lived with his mother and her succession of boyfriends. Jimmy has recently undergone some medical tests which have revealed he has an extra Y chromosome. He has also been hanging around with local criminals and is due to appear before a local magistrates' court on a second charge of grievous bodily harm.

(a) With reference to Jimmy's case, describe **one** individualistic theory of criminality. [5]

(b) Evaluate psychodynamic theory in explaining causes of criminality. [8]

Individualistic Theories – Psychological Theories

LO2 - KNOW THEORIES OF CRIMINALITY

Assessment Criterion	Content	Amplification
AC2.2 - Describe individualistic theories of criminality	Individualistic Theories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • learning theories • psychodynamic • psychological theories 	Learners should have knowledge of a range of theories, e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bandura ○ Eysenck ○ Freud

HANS EYSENCK'S PERSONALITY THEORY

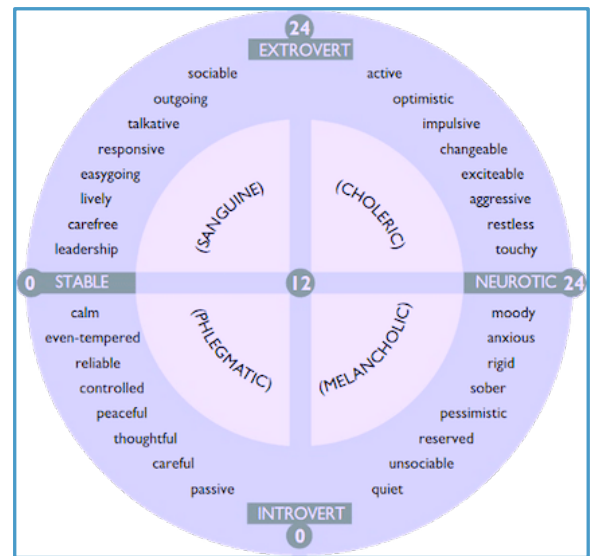
Eysenck believed that certain personality types are more likely to commit crime. This is because they crave excitement and are slow to learn that crime has negative consequences. He based his theory on the results of surveys carried out on 700 soldiers, who were being treated for various disorders at the Maudsley Hospital in London, shortly after the second world war. From the soldiers' responses, Eysenck was able to identify 3 main personality traits, these were introversion-extroversion (E); neuroticism-stability (N) and psychoticism-normality (P)

- **Extraversion-Introversion** - extroverts are characterised as outgoing, having positive emotions, but may get bored easily.
- **Neuroticism-Stability** - neuroticism is the tendency to experience negative emotional states (such as anger, anxiety and depression) rather than positive emotional states.
- **Psychoticism-Normality** - psychotics are egocentric, aggressive, impulsive, impersonal, lacking in empathy and generally not concerned about the welfare of other people.

PERSONALITY AND BEHAVIOUR

The first of these traits, **extraversion**, refers to how socially oriented we are – some people need the company of others in nearly all situations, these people are extroverts, while others are happier with their own company introverts; most of us are somewhere in between the two extremes. The second of these traits is **neuroticism**, that is the degree to which we experience negative emotions such as anxiety, depression or anger. A high score might be indicative of someone who frequently experiences some or all of these negative emotions, people with low N scores are described as stable.

Eysenck thought all psychologically healthy people could be placed somewhere on the extraversion-introversion and the stability-neuroticism scales, some people will score at the extremes, but this does not make them abnormal or unhealthy. **Psychoticism** on the other hand refers to character traits that would make us cold, uncaring and unfeeling. Eysenck thought that this trait would not be found in healthy people and that people who scored high on this trait were potentially criminal.



PERSONALITY HAS A BIOLOGICAL BASIS

Eysenck (1982) suggested that personality has a biological basis which is mainly innate. **Extraversion** is determined by the **overall level of arousal** in a person's nervous system. A person who is under-aroused requires more stimulation, whereas an over-aroused person doesn't require this. Extraverts seek external stimulation to increase their cortical (brain) arousal. Introverts are innately over-aroused and thus seek to reduce or avoid stimulation. **Neuroticism** is determined by the level of stability (i.e., amount of reactivity) in the **sympathetic nervous system** – how much a person responds in situations of threat (fight-or-flight). A neurotic person is someone who is slightly unstable and reacts/gets easily upset quickly. At the opposite end of this dimension the 'stable' personality has a more unreactive nervous system.

THE RELATIONSHIP OF PERSONALITY TO CRIMINALITY

- Eysenck believed that high E scorers, when coupled with a high N score could under some circumstance be more likely to commit crime.
- A high P score would invariably be associated with crime as these individuals do not have the social tools to fully function in society.
- Psychoticism has been related to higher levels of testosterone, which means that men (who have higher levels of testosterone than women) are more likely to be found at this end of the spectrum.

RESEARCH COMPARING PERSONALITY IN CRIMINALS and NON-CRIMINALS

There has been research comparing the personalities of criminals and non-criminals. Dunlop et al (2012) found that both extraversion and psychoticism, as well as lie scales, were good predictors of delinquency. Dam et al (2007) found that only a small group of male offenders in a juvenile detention centre had high scores on all three of Eysenck's variables.

Evaluation – Psychological Theories

EYSENCK'S PERSONALITY THEORY

STRENGTHS OF EYSENCK'S THEORY

✅ **EYSENCK'S THEORY IS SUPPORTED BY RESEARCH USING THE EYSENCK PERSONALITY INVENTORY (EPI)** – this measures traits like extraversion, neuroticism, and psychoticism. Studies have found that this test can be a valid and reliable way to predict criminal behaviour.

RESEARCH SUPPORTS A LINK WITH EXTRAVERSION AND PSYCHOTICISM – For example, Dunlop et al. (2012) found that traits such as extraversion and psychoticism were linked to delinquency. Similarly, Van Dam et al. (2007) studied young male offenders in a juvenile detention centre and found they scored highly on all three of Eysenck's personality traits. This suggests that certain personality types may be more at risk of engaging in criminal behaviour..

LIMITATIONS OF EYSENCK'S THEORY

❌ **THE EPI MIGHT NOT BE RELIABLE OR VALID** – One issue with the EPI is that it uses a self-report questionnaire, which relies on people being honest. Participants might give false answers to make themselves look better (this is called social desirability bias), which reduces the accuracy of the results and makes the test less valid.

❌ **DOES NOT EXPLAIN THE VARIETY OF CRIMES AND CRIMINALS** – Another limitation is that personality alone cannot fully explain the wide range of crimes people commit. It's hard to believe that someone who commits impulsive street theft has the same personality as someone who carefully plans financial fraud. This shows that other factors – like opportunity, upbringing, or motivation – also play a role in criminal behaviour.

Sociological Theories - Marxism

LO1 – DESCRIBE SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES OF CRIMINALITY

Assessment Criterion	Content	Amplification
AC2.3 <i>You should be able to -</i> Describe Sociological Theories of Criminality	Sociological Theories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Structure • Interactionism • Realism 	You should have knowledge and understanding of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Marxism ✓ Labelling ✓ Functionalism ✓ Left and Right Realism

SOCIAL STRUCTURE EXPLANATIONS

These theories assume that crime results from disadvantage which is inherent within the capitalist system. Crime is committed by marginalised groups such as the working class and ethnic minority groups because of unfavourable conditions such as unemployment, poor housing, poorly paid or boring jobs. Among the most widely discussed are Marxist explanations of crime



MARXISM AND CAPITALISM

Capitalism – is an economic system in which private individuals or businesses own capital goods. Ownership of the means of production (a country's trade and industry) is by a small number of people, these are the ruling or upper class. Everyone else must sell their labour, these are the 'proletariat' or the working class. Marxists do not approve of this system and believe it must be overthrown through revolution.

Marxism is a social, political, and economic philosophy named after Karl Marx. It examines the effect of capitalism on labour, productivity, and economic development and argues for a worker revolution to overturn capitalism in favour of communism.

MARXIST EXPLANATIONS OF CRIME

Marxists see crime as inevitable in a capitalist society as most of the structures of society exist to exploit the working class and to benefit the ruling class. This is true of many of the institutions of society such as the education system, the police, the justice systems and even the law.



Marxist Views on Crime

- **White Collar Crime** - is not treated as seriously as it should be. Crimes that cost the taxpayer millions of pounds, or cause massive environmental damage are routinely ignored because these are the crimes of the ruling classes. On the other hand, more minor crimes such as street robbery or shoplifting attract severe prison sentences because they are committed by the working classes and other marginalised groups.
- **The Criminal Justice Systems and Policing** - Marxists argue that the police favour the ruling class. The fact that working class people and ethnic minorities are over-represented compared to more powerful groups is not surprising because the police focus their resources on these groups and their activities. This is made worse by the criminal justice system which routinely gives stiffer sentences to people from a working-class background.

Evaluation – Social Structure Explanations of Crime

Marxist Explanations of Crime

STRENGTHS OF MARX'S THEORY

- ✓ **COMPREHENSIVE EXPLANATION OF CRIME** – A key Marxism provides a broad framework for understanding crime across all social classes. It draws attention to selective law enforcement, highlighting how white-collar crime is often overlooked or under-policed.
- ✓ **FOCUS ON INEQUALITY AND POWER** – The theory effectively links social inequality to criminal behaviour, arguing that the law serves the interests of the powerful. It demonstrates how the legal system reflects and reinforces power imbalances between social classes.

LIMITATIONS OF MARX'S THEORY

- ✗ **OVEREMPHASIS ON CLASS CONFLICT** – Marxism assumes crime is an inevitable outcome of capitalist exploitation, overlooking the fact that most working-class individuals are law-abiding. It also ignores capitalist societies like Japan and Switzerland, which maintain low crime rates despite economic inequality.
- ✗ **OVERSIMPLIFICATION OF THE WAY THE LAW WORKS** – While Marxism claims the elite are protected from prosecution, high-profile cases—such as Bernie Madoff and Jeffrey Epstein—demonstrate that wealth and power do not guarantee immunity from the law.

Sociological Theories - Functionalism

LO1 – DESCRIBE SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES OF CRIMINALITY

Assessment Criterion	Content	Amplification
AC2.3 You should be able to - Describe Sociological Theories of Criminality	Sociological Theories • Social Structure • Interactionism • Realism	You should have knowledge and understanding of: ✓ Marxism ✓ Functionalism ✓ Labelling ✓ Left and Right Realism

FUNCTIONALISM

Functionalism is one of the key sociological perspective. Institutions in society such as the family, education, the media, etc, have clear social functions. More surprisingly, things such as crime can also be seen to be functional when looked at in the right way.

SOCIAL CHANGE IS A FUNCTION OF CRIME AND DEVIANCE

Functionalists believe that some deviance is necessary for a healthy society. Durkheim (1897) argued that crime can be important for **social change**. He said there is an **ideal level of crime** – not too much, and not too little. If crime is too high, society can fall into **anomie**, a state where norms and rules break down. But if there's no crime at all, society can become too rigid and unable to adapt or improve. Durkheim also said that deviant behaviour is often rejected at first, but over time, it can lead to progress. People who were once seen as troublemakers – like **suffragettes** or **abolitionists** – are now viewed as heroes who helped change society for the better.



Suffragists attend a meeting of the National Women's Party of America wearing their prison uniform.

ROBERT MERTON'S STRAIN THEORY

Merton believed that American society was built around the idea of the American Dream – the belief that anyone can achieve success, wealth, and status through hard work and determination. This dream is meant to be reached through legal, socially approved means, such as education and employment. However, in reality, many people face blocked opportunities. They might be stuck in low-paid, dead-end jobs or struggle to access good education. When people realise they can't achieve the dream in the expected way, they experience strain.

Merton identified a number of distinct responses to this sense of strain:

- **Conformity** - most cope with their disappointment by accepting their lot. They continue to dream about the goal of material success and conform to the accepted means of achieving that goal, i.e., by working hard.
- **Rebellion** - rebel and seek to replace the shared goals with alternative, often opposing goals and values. They set about achieving them by revolutionary means, e.g., via terrorism.
- **Retreatism** - drop out of mainstream society and therefore reject both the wider goals of 'conventional' society and the means of achieving those goals, e.g., the drug addict, vagrants, hippies, new-age travellers.
- **Ritualism** - describes the attitude of people who have lost sight of the goals but plod on in meaningless jobs, working hard but never really thinking about what they are trying to achieve.
- **Innovation** - reject the conventional means of acquiring wealth and adopt non-conventional and sometimes illegal means, i.e., they turn to crime. Note that this group still accepts the wider goals of society, it is the conventional means of achieving those goals that they reject.

OTHER FUNCTIONS OF CRIME

Functionalists believe that crime and deviance can have some **positive functions** for society:

Davies (1967) said that deviance can act as a **safety valve**. For example, he argued that **prostitution** allows men to release sexual tension without threatening the family structure, helping to prevent more serious breakdowns in relationships.

Crime is also important for **boundary maintenance**. When someone breaks the law and is punished, it reminds the rest of society of the difference between right and wrong. This shared reaction to crime helps **bring people together** and strengthen social norms.

Evaluation – Functionalist Theories

Durkheim's Theory

STRENGTHS OF FUNCTIONALIST'S THEORIES

- ✓ **COMPREHENSIVE EXPLANATION OF CRIME** –Marxism provides a broad framework for understanding crime across all social classes. It draws attention to selective law enforcement, highlighting how white-collar crime is often overlooked or under-policed.
- ✓ **FOCUS ON INEQUALITY AND POWER** – The theory effectively links social inequality to criminal behaviour, arguing that the law serves the interests of the powerful. It demonstrates how the legal system reflects and reinforces power imbalances between social classes.

LIMITATIONS OF FUNCTIONALIST'S THEORY

- ✗ **COMPREHENSIVE EXPLANATION OF CRIME** – Marxism provides a broad framework for understanding crime across all social classes. It draws attention to selective law enforcement, highlighting how white-collar crime is often overlooked or under-policed.
- ✗ **FOCUS ON INEQUALITY AND POWER** – The theory effectively links social inequality to criminal behaviour, arguing that the law serves the interests of the powerful. It demonstrates how the legal system reflects and reinforces power imbalances between social classes.

Merton's Strain Theory

STRENGTHS OF MERTONS STRAIN THEORY

- ✓ **EXPLANATION OF WORKING-CLASS CRIME** – Merton's theory offers insight into why working-class individuals may be more likely to engage in criminal behaviour. It argues that social and economic inequality creates strain when people are unable to achieve culturally approved goals through legitimate means
- ✓ **FOCUS ON THE INDIVIDUAL (MICRO APPROACH)** – Unlike macro or structural theories (e.g. Marxism), Merton's theory takes a micro-level approach, focusing on how individuals respond to strain. This allows for a more nuanced understanding of deviance, recognising that people do not always behave collectively as members of a social class.

LIMITATIONS OF MERTONS STRAIN THEORY

- ✗ **IGNORES CRIME AMONG THE PRIVILEGED** –The theory largely overlooks white-collar crime and crimes committed by those who are financially successful. These individuals may not experience strain in the same way, yet still engage in criminal activity, challenging the core assumptions of the theory.
- ✗ **LIMITED EXPLANATION FOR NON-UTILITARIAN CRIME** –Merton's theory focuses on utilitarian crime (crime committed for material gain) but fails to adequately explain non-utilitarian crimes, such as vandalism, violence, or graffiti, where there is no clear material benefit. Although Merton mentions deviant adaptations, these do not fully account for expressive or impulsive criminal acts.

EXAM PRACTICE – SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES

May 2019

(Adapted from question 1)

Scenario: Martha has been married to Tony for 15 years. For most of that time she has been the victim of domestic abuse. For several reasons, she has never reported this to the police. The main reason is that she feels sorry for Tony as he has been unemployed for some time and cannot get a job.

Tony gets upset about not being able to provide a better standard of living for Martha and himself. As a result of this, he has recently started to steal food from a local supermarket.

Their neighbour knows about the domestic abuse and has recently seen a campaign on the television to promote awareness and encourage reporting of such abuse.

(a) Describe one **sociological** theory of criminality [4]

(b) Analyse how the theory described above can be applied to Tony's situation. [6]

(c) Evaluate the theory described in (a) and (b) [6]

Sociological Theories - Interactionism

LO1 – DESCRIBE SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES OF CRIMINALITY

Assessment Criterion	Content	Amplification
AC2.3 <i>You should be able to -</i> Describe Sociological Theories of Criminality	Sociological Theories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Structure • Interactionism • Realism 	You should have knowledge and understanding of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Marxism ✓ Functionalism ✓ Labelling ✓ Left and Right Realism

LABELLING AND DIFFERENTIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

Interactionists argue that agencies such as are more likely to 'label' some groups as criminal. This means they are more likely to devote police time and attention on these groups and communities. This in turn means that these individual from communities will become over-represented in law enforcement actions such stop and search, arrest and ultimately conviction for criminal offences.

Put simply if the police go looking for criminality, they will find it.

INTERACTIONISM

Interactionism is a sociological theory that emphasises the interactions between people rather over the importance of big institutions of society such as the class, education or political systems. Put simply interactionism emphasises the small scale over the big.

LABELLING THEORY and CRIME

Interactionists argue that there is no act that is naturally deviant or criminal. An act only becomes deviant when **powerful groups in society label it that way**. What is seen as criminal depends on who has the power to make the rules and apply labels.

This theory fits well with ideas from **Marxism and feminism**, which argue that society is controlled by powerful groups. In a capitalist society, the **ruling class makes laws** that often target the working class. In a racially divided society, **minority ethnic groups may be labelled** as deviant based on the standards of the dominant ethnic group.

THE SELF- FULFILLING PROPHECY

Another important concept associated with labelling is 'self-fulfilling prophecy'. It is suggested that when a label is applied to an individual for example, mad, bad or criminal – their behaviour will become consistent with that label – this is the Self-fulfilling Prophecy. A label once applied may increase the chances of offending by isolating the individual from society and encouraging friends and family to reject them. The 'deviant' may consequently seek comfort, sympathy, normality and status in a 'subculture' of others who have been branded with a similar label

Boris Johnson and Former Prime Minister David Cameron were both members of the Bullingdon Club. This was a notorious student group being associated with a wide range of illegal behaviour, this behaviour was not subject to the same social control and punishment that it would have attracted had they been poor people rioting, rather than rich people "letting off steam".



Evaluation - Interactionism and Labelling Theory

LABELLING AS AN EXPLANATION OF CRIME

STRENGTHS OF LABELLING THEORY

- ✓ **HELPS US UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENS AFTER SOMEONE IS LABELLED** - Labelling theory explains how being called a criminal or troublemaker can affect a person's behaviour. For example, if someone is labelled as a troublemaker, they might start acting that way more often—this is called a *self-fulfilling prophecy*. Over time, the label can become their *master status*, meaning it becomes the main thing people think of when they see them.
- ✓ **SHOWS HOW THE SYSTEM CAN ACTUALLY CREATE CRIME** - The theory says that groups like the police help to create crime by targeting certain people based on stereotypes. For example, young people, ethnic minorities, or those from poorer areas might be stopped more often by police. This can make it look like these groups commit more crime, when really, they're just more likely to be labelled and recorded.

LIMITATIONS OF LABELLING THEORY

- ✗ **DOESN'T EXPLAIN WHY PEOPLE BREAK THE LAW IN THE FIRST PLACE** - Labelling theory talks a lot about what happens *after* someone is labelled, but it doesn't explain why they committed the crime to begin with. Some critics say crime is real and serious, and not just something that happens because people are labelled
- ✗ **FOCUSES TOO MUCH ON THE CRIMINAL AND IGNORES THE VICTIM** - This theory often sees the person who committed the crime as a victim of labelling. Some people think this is unfair, as it doesn't talk enough about the actual victims of crime. In some cases, it can even make it seem like the criminal is the one we should feel sorry for.

Sociological Theories - Left and Right 'Realism'

LO1 – DESCRIBE SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES OF CRIMINALITY

Assessment Criterion	Content	Amplification
AC2.3 <i>You should be able to -</i> Describe Sociological Theories of Criminality	Sociological Theories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Structure • Interactionism • Realism 	You should have knowledge and understanding of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Marxism ✓ Functionalism ✓ Labelling ✓ Left and Right Realism

RIGHT REALISM

Right Realism considers crime from the perspective of **political conservatism**, which tends to take a negative view of human nature. Charles Murray (1990) argued some people in society were more predisposed to committing crime because of lower intelligence and inadequate socialisation. Murray talks about the development of an 'underclass' of people who grow up in single parent households, with absent fathers, without adequate role models, and in an intellectual poverty.

CHARLES MURRAY'S AND THE CRIMINAL UNDERCLASS

CHARLES MURRAY (1990) ARGUED THAT A **CRIMINAL UNDERCLASS** EXISTS BENEATH THE WORKING CLASS. THIS GROUP IS OFTEN LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED, NOT BECAUSE OF LACK OF OPPORTUNITY, BUT BECAUSE THEY ARE **WORK-SHY** AND PREFER LIVING OFF **BENEFITS**. THEY MAY TURN TO **CRIME OR THE BLACK ECONOMY** TO BOOST INCOME, SHOW **HOSTILITY TOWARDS AUTHORITY**, AND LACK STRONG MORAL VALUES, INCLUDING COMMITMENT TO **MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE**.

RIGHT REALIST SOLUTIONS TO CRIME

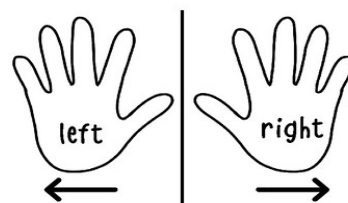
Right realists argue that people are naturally selfish and will commit crime if they think it benefits them. They believe **rehabilitation** is too soft and that trying to reduce crime by tackling **poverty or inequality** misses the point, since crime is more about **individual choice** than social conditions.

Their ideas are influenced by the **Broken Windows theory**, which suggests that if small signs of disorder (like vandalism) are ignored, more serious crime will follow. As a result, they support **zero-tolerance policing**, where even minor offences are dealt with strictly to maintain order. They also support increased **surveillance** and **social control** through tools like **CCTV**, **neighbourhood patrols**, and **ID cards**.

Instead of focusing on changing the criminal, right realists aim to **reduce opportunities** for crime. They believe that crime can be prevented by making it harder to commit and by ensuring the **risks and consequences outweigh any potential rewards**. This is known as **situational crime prevention**.

Realism

Realism is really two explanations of criminality, left realism and right realism. These two explanations share some similarities but there are important differences too.



LEFT REALISM

Left realism analyse crime from a left-wing perspective. They agree with right realists that working class areas are crime hotspots but point out that the main victims of crime are the working class and ethnic minorities themselves. They also suggest that the police take crime in these areas less seriously than in middle or upper class (bourgeoisie) areas.

CRIME, RELATIVE DEPRIVATION & MARGINALISATION

Left realists argue that in a **capitalist society**, people are constantly encouraged to want more through **consumerism**. However, **working-class youth** often feel they can't access this lifestyle, leading to **relative deprivation**—feeling poor or excluded compared to others. For **ethnic minorities**, this feeling can be made worse by **racism and discrimination**.

These groups may become **marginalised**, feeling pushed out of society with little voice or power. **Negative treatment by police**, such as stop and search, can increase feelings of anger and lead to **hostility** or even confrontation. To cope with their frustration, some may join **subcultures** that offer support but also encourage **criminal behaviour**, such as drug dealing or street crime like **mugging**.

LEFT-REALIST SOLUTIONS TO CRIME

Left realists have a **positive view of human nature** and believe that people can change. They support **rehabilitation** over punishment and argue that **prison often makes things worse** by breaking the offender's ties to the community, which can lead to further offending.

They believe that **communities should play a key role** in tackling crime. While they are critical of relying too heavily on **deterrents** like **CCTV** and **ID cards**, they strongly support **community-based approaches** such as **neighbourhood watch schemes** and **community policing**, which aim to rebuild trust and reduce crime through cooperation.

Evaluation – Realist Theories of Crime

RIGHT REALISM AS AN EXPLANATION OF CRIME

STRENGTHS OF RIGHT REALISM

- ✓ **OFFERS PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO CRIME** – Right realists believe in tougher punishments, more police surveillance, and 'zero tolerance' policies to deal with crime. These ideas are seen as more realistic and useful in tackling crime than more theoretical approaches like Marxism or labelling theory.
- ✓ **BACKED BY RESEARCH ON FAMILY BREAKDOWN** – Studies like *Flood-Page et al. (2000)* support the idea that family structure can influence crime. They found that boys from lone-parent or stepfamily households were more likely to commit crime than those from two-parent families. This supports the right realist view that the decline of the traditional family can lead to more offending.

LIMITATIONS OF RIGHT REALISM

- ✗ **TRUSTS OFFICIAL CRIME STATS TOO MUCH** – Right realism tends to accept government crime statistics without question. But Marxists and labelling theorists argue that these stats are biased. Crimes committed by the rich—like fraud or corruption (called *white collar crime*)—are often overlooked, even though they may harm society more than crimes by poorer people.
- ✗ **IGNORES DEEPER CAUSES OF CRIME LIKE POVERTY** – Right realists focus on individuals and families, but they don't look at the bigger picture—like inequality or poverty. Research shows that countries with less of a gap between rich and poor tend to have less crime. Right realism doesn't fully explain how these wider social issues lead to criminal behaviour.

LEFT REALISM AS AN EXPLANATION OF CRIME

STRENGTHS OF LEFT REALISM

- ✓ **GIVES REALISTIC AND PRACTICAL WAYS TO REDUCE CRIME** – Left realists suggest we can tackle crime by improving things in society, like reducing poverty and social exclusion, helping young people through better opportunities, improving relationships between the police and the community, and making the police more effective at catching criminals. These ideas focus on *long-term prevention*, not just punishment.
- ✓ **FOCUSES ON BOTH OFFENDERS AND VICTIMS** – Left realism helps us understand that factors like *relative deprivation* (feeling unfairly worse off than others) and *marginalisation* (being pushed out or excluded from society) can affect both the people committing crimes and those who are victims. This gives a more balanced view of crime.

LIMITATIONS OF LEFT REALISM

- ✗ **STRUGGLES TO EXPLAIN ALL TYPES OF CRIME** – Left realism is good at explaining crimes committed by groups, like gang-related or drug crimes, but it's less helpful for understanding crimes committed by individuals—like burglary that isn't part of gang activity.
- ✗ **LESS EFFECTIVE FOR VIOLENT CRIMES** – While the theory explains *acquisitive crimes* (like street robbery or burglary), it's not as good at explaining violent crimes such as rape, assault, or hate crimes, which often have different causes that aren't linked to poverty or social inequality.

EXAM PRACTICE – MORE SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES

May 2018

(Adapted from question

Scenario: Edna and Sidney are neighbours. Edna is obsessed with cats and has 40 of them in her house. She has lived in poverty for many years. Sidney is a wealthy, elderly punk rocker who always dresses in punk rocker clothes and styles his hair in a spiked multi-coloured mohawk. He also regularly illegally downloads music and plays it at high volume late at night.

Edna and Sidney intensely dislike each other and regularly argue. Edna complains about the music and Sidney calls Edna 'a crazy old woman'. Many of their neighbours' shout abuse at Edna saying she is **mad** and needs locking up. Edna has never complained to the police about this. One night she found graffiti on her door saying '**mad woman**'. When she heard Sidney's music she went to his house armed with a kitchen knife, and stabbed him in the heart. He died shortly after the attack.

(a) Describe one **sociological** theory of criminality. [4]

(b) Analyse how the theory described above can be applied to Edna's situation. [6]

(c) Evaluate the effectiveness of the sociological theory described in explaining causes of criminality [6]

PART 3: UNDERSTAND CAUSES OF POLICY CHANGE

LO4 UNDERSTAND CAUSES OF POLICY CHANGE		
Assessment Criterion	Content	Amplification
AC4.1- Assess the use of criminological theories in informing policy development	Criminological Theories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individualistic • Biological • sociological Policy Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • informal and formal policy making • crime control policies • state punishment policies 	Learners should be able to apply their knowledge of each of the theories and assess their use in informing policy on crime. This could include, for example, penal, zero tolerance, CCTV, restorative justice, multi- agency approach.
AC4.1 Explain how social changes affect policy development	Social Changes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • social values, norms, and mores • public perception of crime • structure of society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ demographic changes • cultural changes 	Learners should have an understanding of social changes and how they have affected policy development.
AC4.3 Discuss how campaigns affect policy making	Campaigns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • newspaper campaigns • individual campaigns • pressure group campaigns 	<p>Synoptic links: Learners should use their knowledge and understanding of campaigning for change learned through Unit 1 to consider its effect on different types of policies.</p>

LO4 UNDERSTAND CAUSES OF POLICY CHANGE			How are biological approaches related to policy? - Crime control policies based on biological approaches assume that criminal behaviour is influenced by genetics, brain structure, or hormonal imbalances. Interventions such as chemical castration for sex offenders, methadone treatment for addiction, and neurosurgical procedures aim to reduce criminal tendencies by altering biological functions. Advances in genetic screening and neuroimaging also allow for early identification of at-risk individuals. While some policies have shown effectiveness, they raise ethical concerns about human rights, consent, and potential misuse. Despite these issues, biological approaches continue to shape crime prevention through forensic psychology, neuroimmunology, and medical rehabilitation programs.
Assessment Criterion	Content	Amplification	
AC4.1 The use of criminological theories in informing policy development	Criminological Theories <ul style="list-style-type: none">• individualistic• biological• sociological Policy Development <ul style="list-style-type: none">• informal policy making/populism• formal policy making:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ crime control policies◦ state punishment policies	Learners should be able to apply their knowledge of each of the theories and assess their use in informing policy on crime. This could include, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Penal Populism/Zero Tolerance◦ CCTV/Restorative Justice◦ Multi-Agency Approaches.◦ Brain Surgery/Compulsory Sterilisation	
POLICY TYPE	DESCRIPTION & PURPOSE	DOES IT WORK?	
Compulsory Sterilisation	Compulsory sterilisation was once used as a crime control policy in some countries, based on the false belief that criminal behaviour was inherited. Supporters claimed that stopping certain people—especially criminals, the poor, and the disabled—from having children would reduce crime. In the early to mid-20th century, countries like the United States, Sweden, and Nazi Germany sterilised people without consent, often targeting marginalised groups rather than actual criminals. -	There is no scientific evidence that sterilisation reduces crime. Criminal behaviour is shaped by social, economic, and environmental factors , not genetics. Many sterilised individuals were not criminals at all, just from disadvantaged backgrounds. Even for those who had offended, sterilisation did nothing to change their behaviour or prevent reoffending. Today, crime prevention focuses on rehabilitation, mental health treatment, education, and social support , which have been far more effective.	Compulsory sterilisation is now considered a human rights violation . Many victims were misled or forced into the procedure, and the policy was often used to discriminate against certain groups rather than control crime. Instead of tackling the root causes of offending , it punished the powerless and reinforced inequality. While widely condemned today, concerns remain about coercive sterilisation in some medical and legal systems , particularly affecting prisoners, people with disabilities, and ethnic minorities. Crime prevention should focus on justice and reform, not unethical medical practices .
Brain Surgery (Lobotomy)	A lobotomy is a type of brain surgery that cuts connections in the prefrontal cortex , the part of the brain that controls emotions, decision-making, and impulse control. In the mid-20th century, some governments and doctors promoted lobotomies as a way to control violent or antisocial behaviour , including in criminals. The aim was to make aggressive or disruptive individuals calmer and less prone to violence. In some cases, prisoners and young offenders were lobotomised, not due to mental illness, but as a way to control their behaviour and prevent future crimes.	While lobotomies sometimes made individuals more passive, they were not a reliable or effective crime control method . The procedure often left people emotionally numb, confused, or unable to function properly . Though it could reduce aggression, it also damaged rational thinking and decision-making , sometimes making behaviour worse. Unlike modern approaches that address the root causes of crime , such as mental health support and rehabilitation, lobotomies were a crude, irreversible attempt to control people without understanding the real reasons behind their actions.	From an ethical perspective , using lobotomies for crime control was a serious human rights violation . Many patients were not properly informed or forced into the procedure , often against their will. Instead of offering fair trials and rehabilitation , authorities used lobotomies to silence and subdue people. Some individuals who were not even criminals , such as rebellious teenagers or people with disabilities, were lobotomised simply for being “difficult.” Today, lobotomies are seen as an example of pseudoscience and unethical medical practices used to oppress vulnerable people rather than help them .

POLICY TYPE	DESCRIPTION & PURPOSE	DOES IT WORK?	PROBLEMS WITH THIS POLICY
Chemical Castration	Chemical castration is a medical treatment that reduces testosterone levels using drugs like cyproterone acetate or leuprolide , significantly lowering sex drive and making sexual activity difficult or impossible. Unlike surgical castration , it is reversible if treatment stops. Some governments have used it as a crime control measure for sex offenders , believing that lowering testosterone reduces the risk of reoffending. In some countries, it is voluntary for offenders seeking reduced sentences, while in others, it is legally enforced .	Chemical castration can reduce sexual urges , which may help prevent some sex offenders from reoffending. However, it does not work for everyone , as not all sexual crimes are driven by testosterone alone. Psychological disorders, power dynamics, and violent tendencies can still lead to reoffending , even if sexual desire is suppressed. The treatment only works if offenders continue taking the medication , raising concerns about compliance and enforcement . Some studies suggest it can lower recidivism rates , but its effectiveness depends on combining it with therapy, supervision, and rehabilitation programmes .	The use of chemical castration raises serious ethical and human rights concerns . Critics argue that forcing medical treatment as a legal punishment violates bodily autonomy and could be considered cruel and inhumane . There are also risks of severe side effects , including depression, osteoporosis, and cardiovascular issues . Many question whether it truly addresses the root causes of sexual offending , as not all offences are purely hormonal. While some see it as a useful tool for high-risk offenders , others argue that long-term psychological treatment and rehabilitation are more effective than simply suppressing testosterone.
Eugenics & Genetic Interventions	Eugenics was once used as a crime control policy , based on the false belief that criminal behaviour is inherited . In the early 20th century, some governments claimed that people with mental illnesses, low intelligence, or criminal histories were genetically predisposed to crime. As a result, they introduced forced sterilisation programmes to stop these individuals from having children, aiming to “purify” the population and reduce crime over time. This approach was used in countries like the United States, Sweden, and Nazi Germany , often targeting poor communities, ethnic minorities, and people with disabilities .	There is no scientific evidence that eugenics reduces crime. Criminal behaviour is shaped by social, economic, and psychological factors , not genetics. Many people who were sterilised were not criminals , but simply from disadvantaged backgrounds or had misunderstood conditions. Crime is more effectively reduced through education, social support, mental health treatment, and economic opportunities , rather than attempts to control reproduction. The idea that crime is “in the genes” has been debunked , and modern criminology recognises that environmental and social factors play a far bigger role in shaping behaviour.	Eugenics is now seen as a serious violation of human rights . It was based on discrimination, pseudoscience, and state control over reproduction . Many were forcibly sterilised without consent , and entire groups were labelled as “unfit” simply because of poverty, disability, or race . These policies ignored the real causes of crime and instead punished innocent people based on prejudice. While eugenics is widely condemned today , concerns remain over genetic profiling, biological theories of crime, and reproductive control in vulnerable communities .

EXAM PRACTICE – ASSESS THE USE OF BIOLOGICAL THEORIES IN POLICE DEVELOPMENT

MAY 2019

The nature versus nurture debate concerns the extent to which each accounts for behaviours such as committing crime. The nature side focuses on inherited or genetic biological factors. The nurture aspect is concerned about acquired or learned characteristics that are influenced by external factors.

(a) Outline one example of how biological theories of criminality have informed policy development. [3]

LO2 - KNOW THEORIES OF CRIMINALITY			INDIVIDUALISTIC CRIME CONTROL POLICIES
Assessment Criterion	Content	Amplification	
AC4.1- the use of criminological theories in informing policy development	Criminological Theories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individualistic Biological sociological Policy Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> informal and formal policy making crime control policies state punishment policies 	Learners should be able to apply their knowledge of each of the theories and assess their use in informing policy on crime. This could include, for example, penal, zero tolerance, CCTV, restorative justice, multi-agency approach.	<p>Crime control policies based on individualistic (psychological) approaches suggest that criminal behaviour stems from learning, thought processes, and unconscious influences. Learning theory sees crime as learned through observation and reinforcement, leading to interventions like Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) and behaviour modification programmes. Cognitive theory links crime to faulty thinking and impulsivity, addressed through anger management and decision-making training. These approaches focus on changing behaviour and thinking rather than medical treatments, though effectiveness varies.</p>
Policy	Theory	Is it Successful? (Does it work)	Problems With This Policy
TOKEN ECONOMIES	Are based on operant condition which is a learning theory	Partially successful – Token economies are used in prisons and rehabilitation centres to encourage prosocial behaviour by rewarding good conduct. They can reduce violence and rule-breaking in controlled settings but have limited long-term impact on preventing reoffending.	Token economies have limited real-world impact on crime control as offenders may comply with rules only to receive rewards rather than genuinely changing their behaviour. Once released from controlled environments, many revert to criminal activity since the system does not address deeper criminal thought patterns or the root causes of offending.
AVERSION THERAPIES	Are based on classical conditioning which is a learning theory	Rarely successful in crime control - Historically , used to deter offenders from aggressive or deviant behaviour, but results are inconsistent and often short-term . While some studies suggest reductions in certain behaviours, it is not widely used in modern crime control.	Aversion therapy raises serious ethical and legal concerns , as methods like electric shocks and nausea-inducing drugs have been criticised as inhumane and unethical . Furthermore, its effectiveness in crime control is questionable , with high relapse rates and no real focus on changing criminal thought processes or addressing social factors that contribute to offending.
CBT and COGNITIVE THERAPIES (e.g. Anger Management)	Therapies are on cognitive psychology – Han's Eysenck was an important cognitive psychologist	Highly successful in reducing reoffending - CBT helps offenders recognise & change criminal thought patterns, improving impulse control and decision-making . It is widely used in prison rehabilitation and probation programmes to prevent reoffending.	CBT requires active engagement from offenders , making it effective only if they are motivated to change . It is also time-consuming and costly , requiring trained professionals and long-term commitment. Some offenders, particularly those with deep-rooted criminal behaviour , may not respond well , limiting its impact on reducing crime.

EXAM PRACTICE – ASSESS THE USE OF INDIVIDUALISTIC THEORIES IN POLICY DEVELOPMENT

SUMMER 2022

(Adapted from question 1)

Scenario: Daria, aged 14, has two convictions for theft. When Daria was 4 years old, her mother was sent to prison after being found guilty of leading an identity fraud gang. Daria's father resented having to look after her on his own and placed her in care. Daria has met many other young offenders while in care. She states that she enjoys stealing from shops as she likes the thrill of not being seen by the shopkeeper.

(a) Explain one crime control policy that has been informed by individualistic theories.
[6]

LO2 - KNOW THEORIES OF CRIMINALITY			CRIME CONTROL POLICIES BASED ON SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY Left Realism argues crime is best reduced through community policing and addressing root social causes like poverty and education; however, it relies heavily on public cooperation and can lead to labelling, as seen with ASBOs . Right Realism favours situational crime prevention (like CCTV), long-term prison sentences , and zero-tolerance approaches to quickly reduce crime, though these often just displace crime and fail to rehabilitate offenders. Interactionist (Labelling Theory) approaches like decriminalisation and diversion programmes reduce stigma and criminal labelling, aiming to prevent reoffending, but critics argue they may normalise harmful behaviour and lack sufficient deterrent effect.	
Assessment Criterion	Content	Amplification		
AC4.1- – the use of criminological theories in informing policy development	Criminological Theories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individualistic Biological sociological Policy Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> informal and formal policy making crime control policies state punishment policies 	Learners should be able to apply their knowledge of each of the theories and assess their use in informing policy on crime. This could include, for example, penal, zero tolerance, CCTV, restorative justice, multi-agency approach.		
THEORY	POLICIES	Is it Successful? (Does it work)	Problems With This	
LEFT REALISM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COMMUNITY POLICING ASBOs SURESTART CENTRES 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community policing builds trust between the community and police, making crime reporting and prevention more effective. - Addressing root causes (poverty, unemployment, education) is effective long-term, reducing reasons people commit crime. - Policies like Sure Start centres tackle social inequalities early, reducing crime risks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ASBOs (Anti-Social Behaviour Orders) have been criticised for labelling and stigmatising individuals, potentially increasing re-offending rather than preventing crime. - Community policing heavily depends on local cooperation, challenging where relationships with police are strained or there's mistrust. 	
RIGHT REALISM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SITUATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION LONG-TERM PRISON SENTENCES ZERO TOLERANCE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Situational crime prevention (CCTV, alarms, improved street lighting) effectively deters certain crimes like burglary and theft. - Long-term prison sentences (incapacitation) keep serious offenders off streets, reducing immediate crime threats and reassuring the public. - Zero tolerance policies clearly signal acceptable behaviour and can quickly improve community safety. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Situational crime prevention methods (like CCTV) often just displace crime, moving it elsewhere rather than reducing overall crime. - Long-term prison sentences are costly and may not effectively rehabilitate offenders, causing repeat offending after release. - Zero tolerance policies can increase hostility between communities and authorities 	
INTERACTIONISM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DECRIMINILISATION DIVERSION PROGRAMMES 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decriminalisation (e.g., drugs, prostitution) reduces stigma, allowing individuals to seek help without fear of legal punishment, supporting rehabilitation and reducing repeat offending. - Diversion programmes (formal warnings, youth counselling) prevent minor offenders, especially youth, from becoming labelled criminals, lowering chances of further offending. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decriminalisation is controversial; critics argue it normalises harmful behaviours, potentially leading to increased offending. - Diversion policies can be perceived as overly lenient, reducing deterrence and possibly failing to hold offenders accountable, undermining public confidence. 	

EXAM PRACTICE – ASSESS THE USE OF SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES IN POLICY DEVELOPMENT

MAY 2023

Q2. (B) Assess one state punishment policy that has been informed by sociological theories. [6]

OCT 2020

Scenario (no
scenario for this
questions)

Q3. (D) With reference to two examples, assess how sociological theories of criminality have informed policy development [9]

AC4.2 Explain how social changes affect policy development

	WHAT HAS CHANGED? (Give a brief outline of what has, the way things were and what has changed)	WHY DID THIS CHANGE? (Give 2/3 reasons which explain why this has changed)
RACE RELATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attitudes towards race and discrimination have evolved significantly over the past several decades, moving towards a more inclusive and multicultural society. The UK introduced the Race Relations Act 1965, the first legislation to outlaw racial discrimination in public places. The 1968 Race Relations Act extended protections to housing and employment, making it illegal to refuse service or employment based on race. The 1976 Race Relations Act further strengthened legal protections by defining indirect discrimination and creating the Commission for Racial Equality. The Equality Act 2010 consolidated and reinforced all previous anti-discrimination laws, providing a more comprehensive legal framework for racial equality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased Immigration: The post-war period saw a rise in immigration from former British colonies, particularly from the Caribbean, South Asia, and Africa. As Britain became more diverse, the need for anti-discrimination laws became more pressing. Public Awareness and Activism: High-profile racial injustices, such as the case of Stephen Lawrence, brought racial discrimination into the national conversation, leading to increased public demand for stronger legal protections. Government Action and European Influence: Pressure from international bodies and changing European norms influenced Britain to strengthen its anti-discrimination laws to align with global human rights standards.
SAME SEX RELATIONSHIPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the past, same-sex relationships were criminalised, and individuals faced severe punishment, social ostracisation, and discrimination. The Sexual Offences Act 1967 decriminalised homosexual acts between men over 21 in private, marking the first major legal shift towards LGBTQ+ rights. Further legal progress included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Civil Partnership Act 2004, allowing same-sex couples legal recognition and rights similar to marriage. The Equality Act 2010, which prohibited discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment, services, and housing. The Marriage (Same-Sex Couples) Act 2013, which legalised same-sex marriage in England and Wales, followed by Scotland in 2014 and Northern Ireland in 2020. Additional protections have been introduced, including laws against hate crimes and workplace discrimination, ensuring equal treatment for LGBTQ+ individuals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Wolfenden Report (1957): This influential report recommended decriminalisation, stating that private morality should not be subject to criminal law. Growing Public Support: Over time, attitudes towards LGBTQ+ rights have shifted, with increased acceptance and advocacy for equal rights. Legal and Political Advocacy: Campaigners and LGBTQ+ organisations have fought for legal recognition, and political parties have increasingly embraced equality legislation. International Influence: As other Western countries advanced LGBTQ+ rights, the UK faced pressure to modernise its laws to align with global human rights standards. Decreased Religious Influence: As secular views became more prevalent, opposition to LGBTQ+ rights from religious institutions diminished in public policy.

<p>ALCOHOL and DRIVING</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinking and driving, once socially acceptable, is now widely condemned due to the clear link between alcohol consumption and road accidents. • The Road Safety Act 1967 introduced a legal blood alcohol limit for drivers and the use of breathalysers to enforce drink-driving laws. • The 1981 Transport Act further lowered the permissible alcohol limit and increased penalties for offenders. • Today, there are stricter penalties, including automatic bans, heavy fines, and potential imprisonment for high-level drink-driving offences. • Public awareness campaigns, such as the THINK! campaign, have helped change societal attitudes, reinforcing that drinking and driving is both dangerous and unacceptable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific Evidence: Studies showed a clear correlation between alcohol consumption and impaired driving ability, increasing the risk of fatal accidents. • Rising Road Fatalities: Governments responded to increasing traffic deaths caused by intoxicated drivers by implementing stricter laws and enforcement. • Technological Advancements: The introduction of breathalysers in 1968 provided a reliable way to measure intoxication, making law enforcement more effective. • Cultural and Social Shifts: Over time, societal attitudes have shifted, with drink-driving now being widely condemned. This is largely due to education campaigns, high-profile legal cases, and media influence.
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EXAM PRACTICE - EXPLAIN HOW SOCIAL CHANGES AFFECT POLICY DEVELOPMENT


SUMMER 2022

(Adapted from question 2)

Scenario (no scenario for this questions)

((b) Explain, using examples, how **two** social changes have affected policy development. [9]

AC4.3 Discuss how campaigns affect policy making	Campaigns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • newspaper campaigns • individual campaigns • pressure group campaigns 	Synoptic links: Learners should use their knowledge and understanding of campaigning for change learned through Unit 1 to consider its effect on different types of policies.
	<div> <div> ACTION ON SMOKINGS CAMAPAGN </div> <div> A PRESURE GROUP CAMPAIGN </div> </div>	
What were/are it's aims (be specific)?	<p>Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) is a public health charity that works to eliminate the harm caused by tobacco.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASH was established in January 1971 by the Royal College of Physicians. • Ash has campaigned for Smoking in enclosed public places and workplaces to be made illegal • Ash is now campaigning for (amongst other things): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A ban on smoking in cars b) A smoke free Britain by 2030 	
What were/are its methods?	<p>Ash has used the following methods to exert influence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TV adverts to raise awareness of issues around smoking ○ ASH advise the Parliamentary Group on Smoking and Health <p>Ash has supported various legal cases related to smoking, for example it blocked an attempt by tobacco companies to stop the introduction of plain packaging for cigarettes</p>	
What success/failures has it had?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A campaign to ban Smoking in enclosed in workplaces came into effect in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland since 2007 and in Scotland since 2006. ○ The minimum age for buying cigarettes was raised to 18 (from 16) in 2007 ○ In 2015, it became illegal to smoke in a car with a child under the age of 18 <p>The lasts statistics on smoking in the UK suggest smoking has fallen to an all-time low of 14.5 %, down from 45% in 1970.</p>	

	<div> <div>THE DIGNITY IN DYING CAMPAIGN</div> <div>A PRESURE GROUP CAMPAIGN</div> </div>
What were/are it's aims (be specific)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Helping someone to die is an offence under section 2 of the Suicide Act, 1961. This means that people cannot actively assist in the suicide of another person, for example by administering a lethal dose of medication - they cannot actively help them to die. ○ They were concerned that anybody who helped them would be liable to be charged with assisting a suicide under the 1961 act. They were seeking changes to this law and clarification of when somebody would be charged with assisting a suicide.
What were/are its methods?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Taking case to the High Court, Supreme Court, and Court of Appeal to test the current law – this was their main method ○ In addition, they sought the support of celebrities who had personal experience of issues associated with assisted dying ○ Support from the senior doctors ○ Support of Key Politicians and legal figures ○ Support from the Church and other religious figures <p>Appearances on Radio/TV and articles/items on</p>
What success/failures has it had?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dignity in Dying <u>failed</u> replace the 1961 act (The Assisted Dying Bill, 2015) failed to pass and did not become law (not a success) Debbie Purdy got clarification surrounding her case from the Director of Public Prosecutions that people who assisted her would not be liable to prosecution (a success)



ANN MING'S DOUBLE JEOPARDY CAMPAIGN

AN INDIVIDUAL CAMPAIGN

What were/are its aims (be specific)?


- Campaigners wanted to replace the existing rule with a new one; that where new evidence was available that wasn't available at the time of the trial then a person could be tried for the same offence for a second time.
 - The proposed changes would only apply in serious cases such as manslaughter, murder or rape. One of the most significant figures of the campaign was Anne Mings.
 - Anne's daughter Julie Hogg had been murdered by her partner, Billy Dunlop. Dunlop later confessed to the killing but there was little that could be done because of the double jeopardy rule.
- One of the most significant figures of the campaign was Anne Mings. Anne's daughter Julie Hogg had been murdered by her partner, Billy Dunlop. Dunlop later confessed to the killing but there was little that could be done because of the double jeopardy rule.

What were/are its methods?

- This was a single person campaign.
 - One of her first actions was to take the police to court for their bungled investigation into Julie's murder, this helped to get publicise the case. Anne wrote hundreds of letters to the press MPs and significant legal figures.
 - She sought and obtained help from the press, notably the Northern Echo.
- She went to parliament made a powerful speech in the House of Lords.

What success/failures has it had?

- The campaign was a complete success. The 2003 Criminal Justice Act 2003 abolished the double jeopardy rule for serious crimes and came into effect two years later, it was also retrospective meaning it did not matter whether an alleged offence had occurred before 2005.
 - Billy Dunlop could be (and was) prosecuted for the murder of Julie Hogg. There were other high profile retrials as a result of this law.
- In 2012, Neil Acourt and Luke Knight, stood trial and were found guilty of murder of black teenager Stephen Lawrence in 1993. Despite strong evidence of their involvement, they could not be prosecuted after a failed private prosecution by Stephens parents in 1996.

	<div> <div>SARAH PAYNE'S CAMPAIGN FOR SARAH'S LAW</div> <div>A NEWSPAPER CAMPAIGN</div> </div>
<p>What were/are it's aims (be specific)?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This campaign began as a response to a tragic murder. ○ The aims of the campaign were to give the parents of children access to sex offenders' register to check for information about local offenders. ○ In the year 2000, Sarah Payne (aged 8) was abducted and murdered by Roy Whiting. ○ Whiting had previous convictions for abduction and sexual assault of a young girl. <p>Sarah's mother (also called Sarah) argued during the trial that had she known a previously convicted sex offender was in the local area, she would never would have allowed Sarah out</p>
<p>What were/are its methods?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One crucial aspect of the campaign was the support of a national newspaper (The News of the World). This was at a time when newspapers where widely influential. <p>The paper ran many news stories about Sarah and the trial of Roy Whiting and started a petition to get a change in the law. The petition attracted over 700,000 real signatures in the days before electronic petitions. This was very hard for a government to ignore.</p>
<p>What success/failures has it had?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In September, 2008 the campaign won the right for parents or carers to formally ask police if someone with access to a child (teacher, carer) had a record of sexual offences. ○ Note this is falls somewhat short of the original aims of the campaign. Sarah Paynes initial goal was open access the sex offenders register for parents in the area where they were living. Access was granted but it was more limited than this and so, the campaign can be regarded as a partial success. <p>Also it should be noted that various aspects of the scheme have been criticised. Vigilante attacks started on people identified as offenders and, often wrongly. As a result of this some police forces have been reluctant to provide information to parents, for example Sussex Police made disclosures in 14 out of 193 applications (7%), in contrast, Cleveland police made disclosures in response to 131 out of a total of 147 (89%).</p>

EXAM PRACTICE - DISCUSS HOW CAMPAIGNS AFFECT POLICY MAKING	
MAY 2024	Q3 (d) Discuss the success of campaigns by pressure groups in affecting policy development.

