

LO1 - DESCRIBE SOCIOLOGICAL 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 XYX 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

TWIN STUDIES OFFER SOME SUPPORT FOR THE IDEA THAT CRIMINALITY MAY HAVE A **INHERITABLE** COMPONENT (RUNS IN FAMILIES), THOUGH IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THIS IS WIDELY DISPUTED.

IDENTICAL TWINS ARE **MONOZYGOTIC**, THAT IS BOTH OF THE TWINS DEVELOP FROM THE SAME FERTILISED EGG.

NON-IDENTICAL (FRATERNAL) TWINS ARE **DIZYGOTIC**, THAT IS THE DEVELOP FROM TWO SEPARATE EGGS WHICH ARE FERTILISED BY TWO DIFFERENT SPERM.

MONOZYGOTIC (IDENTICAL) TWINS ARE GENERALLY VERY SIMILAR BUT **DIZYGOTIC (NON-IDENTICAL OR FRATERNAL)** CAN BE VERY DIFFERENT. IN FACT, THEY ARE NO MORE SIMILAR THAN ANY OTHER PAIR OF SIBLINGS. THEY MAY NOT LOOK THE SAME AND CAN BE DIFFERENT GENDERS

TWIN & ADOPTION STUDIES	Family Studies (Twins and Adoption)	Research	Strengths/Limitations of This Explanation
<p>WHY STUDY TWINS?</p> <p>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.</p>  <p>If the boys are more similar than the girls on some measure, that is likely to be because of the extra genes by shared by both of them, as the amount of environment shared by both sets of twins is 100%</p>	<p>Twin Studies</p>	<p>Research Relevant to This Theory</p>	
<p>Adoption Studies</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Adoption Studies</p>	<p>Research Relevant to This Theory</p>	

<p>OCT 2020</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Describe one genetic theory of criminality. [6]</p> <p>Many criminologists believe that genetics might influence criminal behaviour. Twin studies, which compare identical (monozygotic) and non-identical (dizygotic) twins, provide insights. Identical twins come from a single egg and share all their DNA, whereas non-identical twins share only half. If genetic factors are important, identical twins should have a higher concordance rate for criminality. Research by Christiansen (1977) found that 35% of identical twin pairs were both criminal, compared with only 13% of non-identical pairs.</p> <p>An example of this is Daniel and Arnold, identical twins separated at birth. Arnold was raised by birth parents who led a criminal lifestyle and has been imprisoned twice. Daniel, brought up in wealthy surroundings, also has a criminal record for stealing exotic animals. Despite their very different upbringings, both engaged in similar unlawful acts, supporting the idea that genetics might increase the risk of offending. Nevertheless, environmental influences are still crucial.</p> <p>(147 words)</p>
<p>MAY 2019</p> <p>Scenario: 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.</p>	<p>Evaluate the effectiveness of either one physiological or one genetic theory in [6]</p> <p>Genetic theory suggests that criminal behaviour may be linked to inherited traits, and research such as twin studies provides some support. Christiansen (1977) found higher rates of criminality among identical twins compared to non-identical twins, implying that genes could play a part. Adoption studies add weight to this view by revealing correlations between adopted children and their biological parents, even though they grow up in separate environments. However, these studies are not conclusive.</p> <p>Twin research can be challenged because identical twins often share the same upbringing, making it difficult to separate genetics from learned behaviour. Adoption studies may also be flawed if children are placed with families similar to their birth parents, which can blur the line between nature and nurture. Also, many individuals who inherit certain genetic traits never commit crimes, emphasising that personal choices and environmental influences remain powerful factors. Overall, genetic theory offers useful insights but cannot alone explain why people turn to crime.</p> <p>(157 words)</p>