

## LO2 - KNOW THEORIES OF CRIMINALITY

Assessment Criterion	Content	Amplification
<b>AC4.1-</b> – the use of criminological theories in informing policy development	<b>Criminological Theories</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individualistic</li> <li>• Biological</li> <li>• sociological</li> </ul> <b>Policy Development</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• informal and formal policy making</li> <li>• crime control policies</li> <li>• state punishment policies</li> </ul>	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.

## INDIVIDUALISTIC CRIME CONTROL POLICIES

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.

Policy	Theory	Is it Successful? (Does it work)	Problems With This Policy
<b>TOKEN ECONOMIES</b>	<b>TOKEN ECONOMIES</b> are based on operant condition which is a learning theory	<b>Partially successful</b> – Token economies are used in <b>prisons and rehabilitation centres</b> to encourage prosocial behaviour by rewarding good conduct. They can reduce <b>violence and rule-breaking</b> in controlled settings but have <b>limited long-term impact</b> on preventing reoffending.	Token economies have <b>limited real-world impact</b> on crime control as offenders may <b>comply with rules only to receive rewards</b> rather than genuinely changing their behaviour. Once released from controlled environments, many revert to criminal activity since the system does <b>not address deeper criminal thought patterns</b> or the root causes of offending.
<b>AVERSION THERAPIES</b>	<b>AVERSION THERAPIES</b> are based on classical condition which is a learning theory	<b>Rarely successful</b> in crime control - <b>Historically</b> , used to deter offenders from <b>aggressive or deviant</b> behaviour, but results are <b>inconsistent</b> and often <b>short-term</b> . While some studies suggest reductions in certain behaviours, it is not widely used in modern crime control.	Aversion therapy raises <b>serious ethical and legal concerns</b> , as methods like <b>electric shocks and nausea-inducing drugs</b> have been criticised as <b>inhumane and unethical</b> . Furthermore, its effectiveness in crime control is <b>questionable</b> , with <b>high relapse rates</b> and no real focus on <b>changing criminal thought processes</b> or addressing <b>social factors</b> that contribute to offending.
<b>CBT and COGNITIVE THERAPIES</b> (e.g. Anger Management)	<b>CBT/COGNITIVE</b> Therapies are on cognitive psychology – <b>Han's Eysenck</b> was an important cognitive psychologist	<b>Highly successful</b> in reducing reoffending - CBT helps offenders <b>recognise &amp; change</b> criminal thought patterns, improving <b>impulse control</b> and <b>decision-making</b> . It is widely used in <b>prison rehabilitation</b> and <b>probation programmes</b> to prevent reoffending.	CBT requires <b>active engagement from offenders</b> , making it <b>effective only if they are motivated to change</b> . It is also <b>time-consuming and costly</b> , requiring trained professionals and long-term commitment. Some offenders, particularly those with <b>deep-rooted criminal behaviour</b> , may <b>not respond well</b> , limiting its impact on reducing crime.