

Crime and Deviance Question Bank



Crime and Deviance is examined in paper 3 of the A Level. You will have 2 hours to answer 4 crime and deviance questions and 2 Theory and methods questions. It is suggested that you spend 1 hour 15 minutes on this section of the paper.

Question 1 is worth 4 marks and requires you to outline ways; reasons; ideas; theories or problems to do with crime and deviance. Bullet points are acceptable here as long as there is brief explanation.

Question 2 is worth 6 marks and requires you outline 3 ways; reasons; ideas; theories or problems to do with crime and deviance. Bullet points are acceptable here as long as there is brief explanation.

Question 3 is worth 10 marks and requires you to outline and explain two reasons; ideas; theories or problems. For this question your two points must be taken from the item given. Any points given that do not relate to the item will not be credited.

Question 4 is worth 30 Marks and requires you to evaluate a debate in with in crime and deviance. This question should be approached in the same way that you approached the 20 Mark questions in the AS exam however you are required to go into more depth and detail by giving more points and more detailed analysis and evaluation. You are required to include an introduction and a conclusion and you should spend approximately 45 minutes on this question.

This booklet contains multiple example questions and a generic mark scheme they can be used for assessment or for private practice.

Question Type 1: Outline TWO..... – 4 marks

Generic Mark Scheme

Two marks for each of two appropriate ways clearly outlined or one mark for appropriate ways partially outlined.

1. Outline two ways in which the media give a distorted view of crime
2. Outline two ways in which the concept of masculinity can be used to explain why males commit more crimes than females.
3. Outline two ways in which crime and behaviour are controlled via surveillance.
4. Outline two ways in which the state is able to conceal or legitimate its crimes against human rights.
5. Outline two reasons why functionalists see crime as inevitable.
6. Outline two criticisms of labelling Theory.
7. Outline two Realist solutions to the problem of crime.
8. Outline two differences between the recorded patterns of male and female offending.
9. Outline two reasons why members of some ethnic groups are more likely than others to receive custodial sentences.
10. Outline two types of green crime.
11. Outline two features of critical victimology.
12. Outline two reasons why crime and deviance may be found in all societies.
13. Outline two neutralisation techniques that offenders may use.
14. Outline two ways in which the criminal justice system may be institutionally racist.
15. Outline two different ways in which a person who has been labelled might react to the label.
16. Outline two differences between the Marxist and functionalist theories of crime.
17. Outline two differences between traditional Marxist theories of crime and new criminology.
18. Outline two criticisms of the left Realist criminology.
19. Outline two differences between left and right realism.

20. Outline two criticisms of Gilroy's idea that black criminality is a myth.
21. Outline two differences between the ideas of Lea and Young and those of Hall et al.
22. Outline two criticisms of the female liberationist idea for apparently rising rates of female crime.
23. Outline two differences between the liberationist perspective on female crime on the ideas of Pat Carlen
24. Outline two criticisms of Charles Murray's view of the underclass and crime.
25. Outline two criticisms of the idea that state crimes should only be defined as acts against national laws.
26. Identify two weaknesses of Beck's idea of risk Society.
27. Outline two criticisms of the idea of moral panics.
28. Identified two weaknesses of the hypodermic syringe model of media effects.
29. Outline two differences between the picture of crime given in the media coverage and the official crime statistics.
30. Outline two weaknesses of positive victimology.
31. Explain two differences between situational and environmental crime prevention.
32. Outline two ways in which crime and deviance are socially constructed
33. Outline two ways in which the criminal justice system may discriminate against some minority ethnic groups.
34. Outline two ways in which green or environmental crimes may reinforce existing social inequalities.
35. Outline two ways in which situational crime prevention may reduce the incidence of crime in an area.
36. Outline two ways in which globalisation has affected crime.

Question Type 2: Outline and explain THREE..... – 6 marks

Generic Mark Scheme

Two marks for each of three appropriate reasons clearly outlined or one mark for appropriate reasons partially outlined

1. Outline three reasons why females may be less likely than males to commit crimes.
2. Outline 3 reasons why some crime may be necessary and beneficial for the wellbeing of society.
3. Outline three reasons why crime statistics may not provide a valid picture of the patterns of crime in society.
4. Outline three reasons why the media exaggerate the extent of crime in society.
5. Outline three reasons why increasing surveillance in society may not be effective in reducing crime and disorder.
6. Outline three reasons why white-collar crime may be less likely than working class to be reported to the police.
7. Outline three different types of subculture.
8. Outline three characteristics of the underclass in Murray's Theory.
9. Outline three possible criticisms of victim studies.
10. Outline three ways in which the police can exercise discretion in deciding how to deal with alleged offenders.
11. Outline three ways in which crime statistics can be seen as socially constructed.
12. Outline three ways in which it has been suggested there may be racism in the criminal justice system.
13. Outline three ways in which Heidensohn suggests females are subject to stronger social control than males.
14. Outline three ways in which it has been suggested that there may be gender bias in the criminal justice system.
15. Outline three types of crime that have grown as a result of globalisation.
16. Outline three possible effects of media coverage of crime other than actually causing crime itself.
17. Outline three of the possible purposes of punishment.

18. Outline three reasons why the mass Media's portrayal of crime could lead to an increase in offending.
19. Outline 3 reasons why white-collar and corporate crime may have low rates of prosecution.
20. Outline three media news values.
21. Outline three reasons why Marxists see capitalism is criminogenic.
22. Outline three ways in which punishments for crime can be functional for Society.
23. Outline three ways in which globalisation has led to new opportunities for committing crime.
24. Outline three limitations of victim surveys in measuring levels of crime

Question Type 3: Applying material from Item A outline and explain TWO..... – 10 marks

Generic Mark Scheme

Band	Descriptor
8 – 10	Answers in this band will show good knowledge and understanding of relevant material on the topic of the question. There will be two developed applications of material from the Item. There will be appropriate analysis/evaluation of two differences.
4 - 7	Answers in this band will show a basic to reasonable knowledge and understanding of one or two points on the topic of the question. There will be some successful application of material from the Item and there will be some analysis/evaluation
1 – 3	Answers in this band will show limited knowledge and understanding of one or two points on the topic of the question. There will be limited application of material from the Item. Some material may be at a tangent to the question and there will be limited or no analysis/evaluation.

Please note that these questions should not be marked in terms of 5 + 5 but as a response as a whole and only points from the item can be credited.

Item A1

Situational crime prevention strategies aim to reduce the opportunity for crime. These strategies assume that the criminal makes a rational decision to commit crime based on perceived risks and benefits. One prevention strategy is to install a burglar alarm to reduce the risk of being burgled.

Applying material from Item A1, analyse two reasons why situational crime prevention strategies may not be effective in reducing crime.

Item A2

Theorists such as Hirschi argue the people act rationally and generally don't commit crime due to certain controls in my life. For example, through attachment we are committed to family relationships. Feminists argue that due to patriarchy females are controlled in various areas of society and as a result of less likely than males to commit crime.

Applying material from item A2, analyse two ways in which control theory can be used to explain why females commit less crime than males.

Item A3

Some sociologists believe that religious ideologies are used to manipulate or control the levers so that they think and behave in certain ways that are beneficial to the interests of those in power. Althusser, for example, saw religion as part of the ideological state apparatus which serves to prevent the majority of people from seeing what he considered to be the true class position.

Applying material from item A3, analyse two ways in which religious ideologies can be seen as serving the interests of a particular social group.

Item A4

Labelling Theory adopts a micro, relative approach to deviance; there is no fixed agreement on what is 'normal'. Becker argues that individual agents of social control have the power to label groups such as the working class as deviant. Societal reaction to those publicly labelled will invariably lead to self fulfilling prophecy resulting in a deviant career.

Applying material from item A4, analyse two reasons why sociological perspectives would criticise the labelling theory of crime and deviance.

Item A5

Postmodernists argue that we live in a media saturated Society. For many people the media has become the main source of information about crime. Many sociologists have been critical of the way in which the media misrepresents crime, for example through extensive coverage of particular types of crime. Such sociologists have outlined a number of ways in which the media can have a negative impact on the behaviour of some members of the audience.

Applying material from item A5, analyse two ways in which the media can influence crime and deviance.

Item A6

Labelling theorists argue that an act is not inherently criminal; it only becomes so when it is labelled as such. They are interested in the ways that labelling affect the actions of those with the power to label acts as Criminal, such as the police and the courts. Being labelled can also have important effects on individuals For whom the label is attached, and labelling a group as criminal can even lead to higher rates of crime being recorded.

Applying material from item A6, analyse two effects of the labelling process on individuals and groups.

Item A7

Marxism see capitalist Society of divided along social class lines. The Ruling Class own the means of production and use the power to exploit the working class in the pursuit of profit, often resulting in workers living in poverty. This relationship then determines the shape of the superstructure - that is, all the other institutions that make up society, including the state, the law and the criminal justice system. Capitalism it is also intensely competitive, with companies and individuals motivated to seek profit.

Applying material from item A7, analyse two ways in which Marxists see class and crime as related.

Item A8

Right Realist theories have had a significant influence on government policy, especially because they appear to offer practical answers to the problem of crime. Like many sociologists, they see childhood experiences as very important in determining behaviour in later life. they focus on the idea that some people are naturally more aggressive or less intelligent than others, and they stress the need to ensure the crime does not go unpunished.

Applying material from item A8, analyse two explanations for the causes of crime put forward by the right realists.

Item A9

Most criminals are men. The most consistent findings of research into crime in different societies and over many decades is that there is a clear link between crime and masculinity. However, the kind of crimes committed there is between different groups of men. So to does what counts as being a 'real man' and the resources to achieve it. Changes over time in the economy and the employment structure - such as deindustrialization for example - may also affect men's opportunities to express their masculinity.

Applying material from item A9, analyse two reasons why men commit crime.

Item A10

The risk of being a victim of crime appears to vary by ethnic group, both in terms of ordinary crimes and racially motivated crimes. This is shown in victim surveys. Surveys are based on the assumption that people are aware of what is happening to them. All suspected crimes have to go through a process of being reported and investigated before they are officially categorised as a crime. The role of police is crucial to this process.

Applying material from item A10, analyse two explanations for the apparent differences in the rates of victimisation of ethnic groups.

Item A11

Some sociologists claim that the media do not trust report criminal and deviant behaviour, that may actually be a cause of crime and deviance. Some Media portrayals of crime may appear to be very realistic. The media also present a number of different lifestyles in a wide range of types of programs, such as reality TV, advertising, documentary and fiction, which some audiences may see as attractive. The same or similar crime story lines and images may be constantly repeated.

Applying material from item A11, analyse two ways in which the media may cause crime.

Item A12

In common with other crimes of the powerful, state crime is not easy to define and sociologists have looked beyond conventional definitions of crime. Some sociologists have defined state crime in an international rather than a national context, while others have seen it in relation to higher moral context. Other sociologists have gone beyond the usual definition of crime as law breaking by seeing state crime in terms of the damage States can cause.

Applying material from item A12, analyse two ways in which state crime can be defined.

Item A13

All societies have systems of punishment for dealing with the deviance, and sociologists have explained the role in a variety of different ways. Some sociologists emphasise the importance of society having shared values. Others argue that punishment may take the form that it does because it reflects the nature of an unequal Society. Some writers have pointed to the way in which punishment varies according to the type of society in which it is found.

Applying material from item A13, analyse two functions of punishment

Item A14

In general women occupy a subordinate position in society. So for many women, their primary role is a domestic one within the family, where they are the main carer and home maker, socialising children. Many bear a double burden, combining domestic duties with paid work outside the home. Typically this involves employment in jobs with less power, status and pay than those performed by men. Some sociologists argue that in fact women work a triple shift that includes emotional labour in addition to unpaid housework and low status employment.

Applying material from item A14 analyse two reasons why women appear less likely to commit crime than men.

Item A15

Many people see deviance as being dysfunctional and negative for society because it represents the potential for social breakdown. However, some sociologists suggest that deviance might actually be functional for society and act as a warning. For example, imprisonment, fines and so on I'm not simply there to punish offenders; they convey other messages as well. Society's values are also not fixed and new ideas sometimes English to challenge existing values.

Applying material from item A15 analyse two functions of deviance.

Item A16

Labelling Theorists suggest that many people commit acts of crime and deviance, but it is the stereotypes and assumptions held by the police and other agencies of social control that influence who gets caught and defined as criminal. Officially classified criminals are an unrepresentative group of offenders who have had their behaviour publicly late as labelled as Criminal.

Applying material from item A16, analyse two reasons why labelling theory may not provide an adequate explanations for the causes of crime

Item A17

White Collar crime that committed by middle class individuals who abuse their work positions for personal gain, at the expense of the employers, the government or clients. Many white collar crimes remain undetected, unreported and unrecorded in criminal statistics, or even managed to escape altogether from being labelled as Criminal acts.

Applying material from item A17, analyse two reasons why white-collar crime may be less likely to be reported to the police than crimes committed by working class people.

Item A18

State Crimes of those carried out by the state in pursuit of its policies, involve violations of human rights as defined by international law. It can be difficult to investigate the extent of state crimes, because government have the power to adopt strategies that either deny or justify human rights abuses, or reclassify them as something else that is not criminal.

Applying material from item A18, analyse two reasons why it may be difficult for sociologists to investigate the extent of state crimes.

Item A19

Who is counted as a victim of crime is socially constructed, as it depends on the attachment of the label of victim. Some may deny their victimisation, and there are many unreported and unrecorded victims who never come to the attention of the criminal justice system, such as victims of domestic and sexual violence, and of white collar and corporate crime.

Applying material from item A19, analyse two reasons why victimisation in crime is considered to be socially constructed.

Item A20

Who is counted as a victim of crime is socially constructed, as it depends on the attachment of the label of victim. Some may deny their victimisation, and there are many unreported and unrecorded victims who never come to the attention of the criminal justice system, such as victims of domestic and sexual violence, and of white collar and corporate crime.

Applying material from item A19, analyse two reasons why victimisation in crime is considered to be socially constructed.

Item A21

Punishment is often seen as a useful way of dealing with crime because it deters reoffending and first time offenders who do not want to risk punishment such as imprisonment. Imprisonment is sometimes seen as a particularly effective form of punishment because incapacitate offenders, stopping them from committing crimes by keeping them behind bars. Both community penalties and imprisonment can provide opportunities to rehabilitate offenders so they become law abiding, but punishment is not always the most effective way of reducing crime.

Applying material from item A21, analyse two reasons why punishments might not be effective in reducing crime

Question Type 3: Using material from the item and your own knowledge, evaluate the view.... – 30 marks

Generic Mark Scheme

Band	Descriptor
25 – 30	Answers in this band will show sound, conceptually detailed knowledge of a range of relevant material. Sophisticated understanding of the question and of the presented material will be shown. Appropriate material will be applied accurately and with sensitivity to the issues raised by the question. Analysis and evaluation will be explicit and relevant. Evaluation may be developed for example by locating the discussion within a debate between perspectives or considering methodological issues. Analysis will show clear explanation. Appropriate conclusions will be drawn.
19 - 24	Answers in this band will show accurate, broad and/or deep but incomplete knowledge. Understands a number of significant aspects of the question; good understanding of the presented material. Application of material is largely explicitly relevant to the question, though some material may be inadequately focused. Some limited explicit evaluation, for example of strain theory and/or some appropriate analysis, e.g. clear explanations of some of the presented material.
13 – 18	Answers in this band will show largely accurate knowledge but limited range and depth, eg an accurate account of strain theory. Understands some limited but significant aspects of the question; superficial understanding of the presented material. Applying listed material from the general topic area but with limited regard for its relevance to the issues raised by the question, or applying a narrow range of more relevant material. Evaluation will take the form of juxtaposition of competing positions or one to two isolated stated points. Analysis will be limited, with answers tending towards the descriptive
7 - 12	Answers in this band will show limited undeveloped knowledge, e.g. two to three insubstantial points about the question topic. Understands only limited aspects of the question; simplistic understanding of the presented material. Limited application of suitable material, and/or material often at a tangent to the demands of the question. Very limited or no evaluation. Attempts at analysis are thin and disjointed.
1 - 6	Answers in this band will show very limited knowledge, e.g. one to two very insubstantial points about the topic in general. Very little/no understanding of the question and of the presented material. Significant errors and/or omissions in application of material. No analysis or evaluation.

Item B1

Some Marxist sociologists argue that crime and deviance are caused by the way in which the capitalist system encourages Greed and selfishness nurse amongst all members of society, thereby causing criminality in all social classes. They also argued that the law and criminal justice are biased against those from lower classes, ensuring that the actions of the rich I'm not defined as Criminal, where is the bones of the lower classes are often treated as Criminal.

Applying material from item B1 and your own knowledge, evaluate the usefulness of Marxist approaches in understanding crime and deviance.

Item B2

Some functionalist sociologists argue that crime and deviance are caused by the inability of some people to gain the rewards of society, for example because of educational underachievement. Those members of society whose opportunities are blocked cannot achieve the goals of society by socially approved means.

Applying material from Item B2 and your knowledge, evaluate the usefulness of functionalist approaches in understanding crime and deviance.

Item B3

Marxist theories regarding rime of an inbuilt feature of an unequal class divided capitalist society that emphasizes self-interest, Greed and personal gain. Laws reflecting Ruling Class interests, and I are selectively enforced against the working class. It is rare for the wealthy, the powerful and influential to find themselves the focus of prosecution and Punishment.

Applying material from item B3 and your own knowledge, evaluate the usefulness of Marxist approaches in understanding crime.

Item B4

Punishment of criminals may act in various ways: as retribution or revenge; as rehabilitation to prevent reoffending; as deterrent to others; as restoration of the harm caused to victims; as social protection from those who are dangerous; as reinforcement of social values; or as an assertion of the power and authority of a sovereign or a dominant social class.

Applying material from item B4 and your own knowledge, evaluate sociological explanations of the role of punishment in the prevention and reduction of crime.

Item B5

Globalisation has created a global criminal economy and transnational networks of organised crime. New opportunities for crime and the types of crime have emerged. Less financial regulation and fewer state controls over business and finance that contributed to the globalisation of crime, along with other factors such as growing inequality, cultural globalisation and ideological consumerism.

Applying material from item B5 and your own knowledge, Evaluate sociological views of the impact of globalisation on crime.

Item B6

Statistics showing that women commit less crime than men. Some suggest that this may be because women are treated more leniently by the criminal justice system, and so are less likely to have their offences recorded. Others suggest it is because of different gender roles, which leads more men into crime, and women to commit fewer and less serious offences.

Applying material from item B6 and your own knowledge, Evaluate sociological explanations for gender differences in the patterns of crime.

Item B7

Some Marxist sociologists argue that capitalist Society is criminogenic, that is, crime is an inbuilt and natural outgrowth of the capitalist Society. Crime is a rational response to the competitiveness and inequality of life in capitalist Society, and the law reflects Ruling Class interests and ideology.

Applying material from Item B7 and your own knowledge, Evaluate the usefulness of Marxist approaches to understanding the causes of crime.

Item B8

Strain theories crime and deviance occur as a result of people not being able to achieve society's goals by legitimate means. For example, due to lack of education, the working class may innovate by stealing. Some sociologists also argue that some groups may lack illegitimate as well as legitimate opportunity structures.

Applying material from Item B8 and your own knowledge, Evaluate the usefulness of strain and subcultural theories to our understanding of crime and deviance.

Item B9

According to official statistics, blacks are seven times more likely than whites to be stopped and searched and five times more likely to be in prison. While some sociologists would argue that these patterns are caused by some ethnic groups being more likely to offend than others, conflict theories would argue that they are the result of differential law enforcement.

Applying material from item B9 and your own knowledge evaluate the claim that the main reasons for ethnic differences in crime rates is institutional racism in the criminal justice system.

Item B10

Realist approaches view crime as a real and growing problems and not just a social construction. Right Realist argue that due to factors such as the inadequate socialisation of some people, crime, particularly in urban areas, is a serious problem that needs addressing. Left realists, while agreeing with governments need to be tough on crime, argue that social policy is should also be tough on the causes of crime.

Applying material from item B10 and your own knowledge, Evaluate the usefulness of Realist approaches to crime.

Item B11

Traditional Marxist the very nature of capitalist Society causes crime and deviance. The Ruling Class not only have the power to exploit those who brought from the working class, but they are able to make and enforce laws in their own interests. However, neo-Marxist theories generally take a less deterministic approach and some call for explore social theory of deviance.

Applying material from item B11 and your own knowledge, Evaluate the usefulness of different Marxist theories in understanding crime and deviance.

Item B12

Strain theories focus on the ways in which people may result crime or deviance when they are unable to achieve socially approved goals by the judgement means. For example, Merton argues that American culture emphasizes achieving success, but an unequal structure limits some individuals opportunity to do so legitimately. This may induce frustration in the individuals concerned. Strain theorists see the response to this situation as a group reaction, which individuals create or join deviant cultures.

Applying material from item B12 and your own knowledge evaluate the contribution of strain theories to our understanding of crime and deviance.

Item B13

Rather than look for the initial causes of it the deviant act, as functionalists do, labelling theories ask how and why some groups and acts come to be labelled as Criminal or deviant while others do not. Coming from an interactionist perspective, they argue that what we mean by crime or deviance is the outcome of the same processes of social interaction - between police officer and suspect, for example - as any other social behaviour. Therefore to understand crime and deviance, we must grasp the meanings involved in the interaction.

Applying material from item B13 and your own knowledge, Evaluate the contribution of labelling Theory to our understanding of crime and deviance.

Item B14

Some sociologists focus on the crimes of the powerful. Crimes committed in the interest of businesses and other large institutions can be far more harmful and costly than the street crimes that we tend to think of as real crime. Corporate crime can involve breaking criminal laws but may also include breaking other kinds of law. Some sociologists argue that corporate crime results from pressures to succeed, leading to employees pursuing business aims by illegitimate means. However, others claim that it is the product of capitalism.

Applying material from item B14 and your own knowledge, evaluate sociological explanations of corporate crime.

Item B15

Left realists see crime as a real problem, especially for the disadvantaged groups who are its victims. They see the causes of crime as located in the structure of late modern society, with its high levels of exclusion and insecurity. Their views on how to tackle the problem of crime have had some influence on official policy, particularly under New Labour governments. However critics claim that Left Realist focus too narrowly on inner city crime and ignore the crimes of the powerful.

Applying material from item B15 and your own knowledge, Evaluate the contribution of left realism to our understanding of crime and deviance.

Item B16

Official crime statistics indicate that there are significant gender differences in the commission of a crime. Only about 20% of convicted offenders are female comma and they are far less likely to commit homicide, carry out of violent crime will be repeat offenders. However, some sociologists believe that these statistics underestimate the true extent and seriousness of female crime. They argue that the leniency of the criminal justice system may result in fewer girls and women ending up in the crime statistics being met.

Applying material from item B16 and your own knowledge, Evaluate sociological explanations of female crime.

Item B17

Official statistics suggest that there is a clear relationship between ethnicity and offending. These show black people and to a lesser extent Asians as being over represented in the criminal justice system. In the view of some sociologists, this is because at each stage in the system, from policing through to sentencing, institutional Racism distorts the picture of ethnic patterns of offending. However, left realists argue that there are real differences in offending rates and that these differences can be explained in terms of factors such as relative deprivation and marginalization.

Applying material from item B17 and your own knowledge, Evaluate sociological explanations of the relationship between ethnicity and offending.

Item B18

Media generated moral panic occurs when the media present been exaggerated over-reaction to an issue which as a result makes the issue seem a much greater problem than it actually is. Usually, a group is represented as a 'folk devil' - a threat to Society. This Media amplification initiates a spiral of distortion, stereotypical representation and condemnation by powerful groups in society. However, this approach has been criticised for failing to explain why particular moral panics develop in the first place.

Applying material from item B18 and your own knowledge, Evaluate sociological explanations of Media generated moral panics.

Item B19

The process of globalisation has made the world more interconnected and increased the scope for crime. Some forms of globalised crime are based on trafficking one commodity for another, while others involved green crimes against the environment. Green crime has been given a lot of attention because of the extent of damage to the environment caused, often by large transnational corporations. Some sociologists have analysed the relationship between globalisation and crime using traditional criminological approaches. However, these see others see the relationship as being the inevitable product of capitalism.

Applying material from item B19 and your own knowledge, Evaluate sociological explanations of the relationship between globalisation and crime.

Item B20

Right realists see crime as the result of rational calculation on the part of individuals together with differences in biology and socialisation that predispose some individuals to offend. However, the main focus of right realism is on practical solutions that will prevent or reduce crime, such as target hardening, tougher policing and harsher punishments. However critics argue that right Realist strategies fail to tackle the real causes of crime, which they see a structural.

Applying material from item B20 and your own knowledge evaluate the usefulness of right Realist approaches to crime.