

Crime and Deviance Knowledge Organiser



Social Order: For people to live and work together a certain amount of order and predictability is needed.

Functionalists argue this is based on value consensus.
Marxists: Social order is maintained because of class conflict. The bourgeoisie have power and control to enforce order and influence the law.

Social Control: Much of our behaviour is socially controlled.

Formal Social Control: Based on written rules and laws.

- Agencies of formal social control:**
- Houses of Parliament
 - The police force
 - Judiciary
 - The prison service.

Informal Social Control: Based on unwritten rules and processes such as approval & disapproval

- Agencies of informal social control:**
- Family members
 - Peers
 - Teachers
 - Work colleagues

Functionalist: Crime is vital and necessary of all societies. It helps to remind people about boundaries of acceptable & unacceptable behaviour. When the public come together over a reaction to a major crime, it creates social cohesion. (Durkheim)

- Sources of data into crime:**
- Victim Surveys
 - Self-report studies
 - Crime Survey
 - National Statistics

- How useful are statistics recorded by the police?**
- If a crime isn't witnessed it won't be reported.
 - Many crimes are witnessed and not reported.
 - **The dark figure of crime**

- The class deal & the gender deal.**
- Most people conform to the rules because of the 'deals' that offer them rewards.
 - **Class Deal:** Material rewards if you work for your wage
 - **Gender deal:** Material & emotional rewards if you live with a male breadwinner within the family.

Marxist: Because society is based on values such as materialism, consumerism and competition- an unequal society. Some people cannot earn enough to fit these norms & values, therefore they commit illegal activities to get them.

Mass Media & Deviancy Amplification (Stan Cohen 1972):

- The media creates **moral panics**- exaggerating the extent and significance of a social problem.
- A particular group is set as **folk devil**- a threat to society's values.
- The media distorts the events and incidents and create a false image of young people and their activities.
- This can encourage other young people to behave in the way the media portrays.
- Recent moral panics: school violence, bullying & shootouts, benefit cheats and single mothers, refugees & asylum seekers.



Feminist: Women are treated and punished as double deviants- they have firstly broken the law and second the norms that govern their gender behaviour. Arguments around the 'chivalry thesis'

Refusing the class deal: Not found legitimate ways of earning a decent living. More to gain than to lose by offending.

Refusing the gender deal: Supposed to be rewarded with happiness & fulfilment from family life. Many women may be abused, no bonds with family & friends. Nothing to lose and everything to gain.

Crime: An illegal act punishable by law.

Deviance: Behaviour that does not conform to society's rules and norms.

Interactionists: Labelling produces a self-fulfilling prophecy. Social groups create deviance by making rules and applying them to particular people and labelling them as 'outsiders'. Groups whose social position gives them power are able to label people. These people see this as a self-fulfilling prophecy.



White Collar Crime: Crimes committed by people in relatively high-status positions. E.g. tax evasion, fraud, misuse of expense account

- Those at high risk from crime:**
- Class:** The poor, living in private rented housing
 - Gender:** Males
 - Age:** The Young
 - Ethnicity:** Minority ethnic groups.

Keythinkers

Albert Cohen (1955) (Functionalist)	Robert Merton (1938) (Functionalist)	Pat Carlen (1988) (Feminist)	Frances Heidensohn (1985, 1996) (Feminist)	Howard Becker (1997) (Interactionist)
<p>Cultural deprivation accounts for working class boys' lack of educational success. They turn to criminality as an alternative route to success.</p> 	<p>Deviance results from the culture and structure of society. All members of society hold the same values. However, because members of society have different positions in the social structure, for example in terms of social class, Merton identified five possible ways that individuals will respond to the goals of success in society.</p>	<p>Control theory is the basis for her approach, this starts from the assumption that human beings are neither naturally good nor bad but will make a rational decision to turn to crime when the advantages outweigh the disadvantages. It supports the view that criminal behaviour becomes more likely when social control breaks down.</p>	<p>Control theory is the basis why women commit fewer crimes than men. She argues that male-dominated patriarchal societies control women more effectively than men, making it difficult for women to break the law.</p>	<p>Becker argued that an act only becomes deviant when others define it as such. Whether the 'label' of deviancy is applied depends on who commits the act, when and where it is committed, who observes the act, and the negotiations that take place between the various actors involved in the interaction.</p>

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Who commits crime? Why do differences occur?

Gender	Ethnicity	Class	Age
<p><u>Women committing less crime.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender socialisation Fewer opportunities More domestic responsibilities May be treated differently in the criminal justice system e.g. sad, rather than bad, given a lenient sentence. Chivalry thesis Others argue they are treated more harshly-double deviancy. Therefore do not commit crime. <p><u>Women's involvement in crime is increasing:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lost a lot of their controls and restraints Women are not experiencing equality in the work place-gender pay gap. 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inaccurate statistics Labelling-racism and stereotyping within the police practice. More ethnic groups are stopped and searched. Institutional racism within the police- most police officers are white and may label particular groups (Stephen Lawrence murder) Linked to their social class, higher levels of crime in the ethnic minority groups could link to the fact they are also possibly experiencing poverty and this leads to crime. Media reinforcing views-reporting in the media on particular groups can generate mistrust and hostility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inaccurate statistics-lower-class criminals may commit crimes that are more identifiable and more likely to be targeted by the police. Socialisation Material deprivation-may commit crime to obtain the things others have Education- W/C more likely to be in the bottom sets/streams so may look for other routes to get what they need e.g. crime. Anomie- mismatch between goals and the means to achieve the goals. Labelling. White collar crime is not as easily identifiable as crimes committed at lower levels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status frustration- lack of independence and caught in transition. Lack of responsibilities can lead them to drift into deviant and criminal behaviour. Peer Pressure Edgework- thrill seeking and risk-taking. Getting a "buzz" from committing a crime or displaying deviant behaviour. Socialisation- Some young people are inadequately socialised and have learned criminal behaviour as a norm or value. Police stereotyping Media moral panic/folk devil. Subcultural theory 

Debate: Treatments of young offenders:
Should young people be sentenced for crimes or educated to prevent them committing crime in the future?

- Age of criminal responsibility is 10. They **should** be put in custody
- ✓ They must take the punishment
- ✓ If they are danger the public needs to be protected
- ✓ They need to learn societies norms & values

They **should not** be put in custody:

- x 73% reoffend within a year
- x Too much money is spent on youth offender institutes
- x Education would be more worthwhile

Debate: Punishment:
Should people be punished and sent to prison or rehabilitated?

They **should** be put in prison:

- ✓ Criminals deserve to be shamed and deprived of their liberty
- ✓ Prison is a deterrent
- ✓ Essential to keep others safe

They **should not** be put in custody:

- x Doesn't make people take responsibility for their actions
- x Reoffending rate is 57% of adults, 73% within young people.
- x Heavily structured regime can damage a prisoners abilities to think and act for themselves
- x They are ineffective- too easy.



Debate: The media:

- Are the media biased in their presentation of crime?**
- Does the media create crime in society?**

1. Are the media biased in their presentation of crime?

- When individuals do not have direct knowledge or experience of what is happening, they rely on the media to inform them.
- The media set the agenda in terms of what is considered to be important.
- The editors filter what they see as newsworthy (news value) they tend to include and emphasis elements of a story for their audience. Stories they are more likely to report (news value) are stories involving children, violence, celebrities, if the event has occurred locally, easy to understand and if graphic images are involved.
- 46% of media reports are about violence or sexual crimes, yet these only make up for 3% of crime recorded by the police (Ditton & Delphy 1983)
- Deviancy amplification is usually used to describe the impact of the media on the public perception of crime.

2. Does the media create crime?

- Media content can have a negative impact on the behaviour of young people, particularly children.
- It is suggested that some people may imitate violence and immoral or antisocial behaviour seen in media. The media are regarded as a powerful secondary agent of socialisation.
- Video games are often blamed as a link between increased aggressive behaviour and crime.

