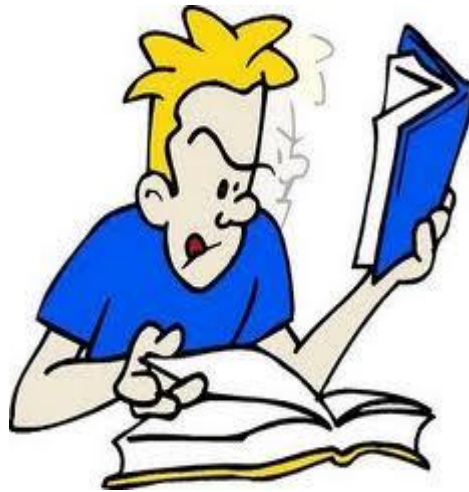# Revision activity booklet for Crime and Deviance

Crime and deviance

Crime and Deviance

What are the key ideas in crime and deviance?	Green	Amber	Red
Topic 1: Social construction of crime and deviance			
I can explain the difference between crime and deviance?			
I can give examples of how crime and deviance change over time and place.			
I can explain what is meant by the social construction of crime and deviance.			
I understand and can give examples of how social norms may change over time.			
I understand how changes in social norms may sometimes lead to changes in the law.			
I understand how changes in the law may sometimes lead to changes in social norms.			
I can explain the purpose of sanctions and laws.			
Challenge: I can explain what Functionalists and Marxist may say about the way that rules, laws and norms are created.			
Topic 2 Social Control			
I understand why social control is needed in society.			
I can explain what is meant by social control?			
I can explain the difference between informal and formal social control?			
I can name at least five agencies of social control.			

I can explain how each agency of social control keeps social order.			
I can give examples of sanctions used by agencies of social control.			
I understand the role that socialisation by informal agencies, such as the family and education play.			
I can explain the functionalist view that social control benefits society.			
I can explain the Marxist view that social control keeps the working class in place and benefits the ruling class.			
I can explain the feminist view that social control may exist to keep females in their place.			
I understand the role of the media in keeping social control.			
I can explain the role of the courts and the police in maintaining social control.			
Challenge: I am able to understand why Marxists are critical of the role of the police and courts.			
Challenge: I am able to explain why functionalists see the police and courts as playing a positive role in society.			
Topic 3: Theories of crime and deviance: How do sociologists explain criminal and deviant behaviour?			
How might inadequate socialisation lead to crime and deviance?			
Why might lack of opportunity or relative deprivation lead to crime and deviance?			
Challenge: I can explain the debate between consensus and conflict views of crime.			
I can explain the functionalist view that crime may play a positive role in society.			

I can refer to the work of Durkheim on crime.			
I understand the concept of anomie and how this may affect crime rates.			
I can explain Merton's Strain theory.			
I can name all 5 of Merton's responses to strain.			
How do sub-cultural theorists explain crime and deviance?			
I can explain the work of Albert Cohen and status frustration.			
Challenge: I know other subcultural theories. E.g. Walter Miller			
How do Marxists explain crime and deviance?			
I can explain the difference between white collar and corporate crime using examples.			
I understand why white collar and corporate crime is harder to detect.			
I know the study of William Chambliss on Seattle.			
Challenge: I can explain other Marxist studies on crime. E.g. Slapper and Tombs,			
I can explain the notion of the **typical offender**.			
How does labelling theory explain crime and deviance?			
I can use sociological terms to explain labelling e.g. Self-fulfilling prophecy, master status,			
I can explain and give examples of moral panics.			
I can explain feminist views on crime.			
I can explain the work of Heidensohn on female social control			
I can explain the chivalry thesis.			

I can explain the research of Pat Carlen on poverty and female crime.			
I understand the sociology of ethnicity and crime including racism, institutional racism and scapegoating.			
Challenge: How would biologists or psychologists explain criminal and deviant behaviour?			
Topic 4: Sources of data on crime: **How reliable are official statistics as a measure of crime?**			
What are the main sources of official statistics in crime?			
What is the 'hidden' or 'dark' figure of crime?			
What are victim and self-report studies?			
How far do official statistics measure the extent of crime?			
Why might crime statistics be described as being socially constructed?			
Topic 5: Patterns of criminal and deviant behaviour: **What is the involvement of different social groups in crime?**			
What explanations are there for young people getting involved in crime?			
Why are men more likely to be involved in crime?			
Why are women less likely to be convicted of a crime?			
Why over the last 10 years are women more likely to be convicted?			

Why are some ethnic minorities over represented in the prison population?			
Why are young black and Asian men more likely to be stopped by the police?			
What is white collar crime?			
Why are working class people more likely to end up in jail than middle class people?			
Why is the crime rate higher in urban areas than rural areas?			
What is the impact of crime and deviance?			
What research is done to measure the impact of crime?			
Why is the fear of crime greater than the actual level of crime?			
What is the impact of crime on communities?			
Contemporary examples			
Why is youth crime seen as a social problem?			
How have governments tried to tackle racially motivated crime in recent years?			
Can you give 3 recent examples from the news that relate to anything above?			

Agents/agencies of social control	
Anomie	
Antisocial behaviour	
Chivalry thesis	
Community service	
Crime	
Corporate crime	
Crime rate	
Dark figure	
Deviance	
Formal social control – police and courts	
Identity theft	

What is meant by crime and deviance? Topic 1

Role of the Police and Courts	
Labelling theory	
Self-fulfilling Prophecy	
Official crime statistics	
Agents of informal social control Media, peers, Family, Religion, Schools	
Recorded crime	
Relative deprivation	
Scapegoating	
Self-report studies	
Social control/sanctions	
William Chambliss – Marxist study of Seattle	
Stereotype	

Sub-cultural theory – Albert Cohen – status frustration Walter Miller	
Robert K Merton _ Strain Theory	
Victim surveys	
White collar crime	
Heidensohn – Female conformity	
Male and Female socialisation and crime	
Pat Carlen – Women, poverty and crime	
Racism – Institutional Racism – Stephen Lawrence case – Macpherson Report	
Moral Panics Folk Devils Stanley Cohen	
Invisible Crime	
Police bias – stop and Search	

6.1 Social construction of concepts of crime and deviance ● what is crime? ● what is deviance? ● historical and cultural variations ● social construction of crime and deviance

- **Topic 1 Social construction of crime and deviance**
- A crime is an illegal act that is punishable by law. Deviance is behaviour which the majority of people disagree with, or which goes against the rules and norms of society. Deviant acts can be- but are not always- illegal. Illegal acts are not necessarily considered deviant.

When is an act seen as deviant?

- Deviance is defined according to the social setting in which it takes place. Behaviour classed as 'deviant' can vary according to who performs the act and where they do so. What is classified as deviant also varies between culture and over time.

What is the difference between formal and informal rules?

- Rules may be formal, that is written down as laws or codes of conduct. Alternatively, they may be informal, that is unwritten and taken for granted.

DEFINITIONS OF CRIME AND DEVIANCE

DEFINING CRIME AND DEVIANCE

- **A crime is an illegal act** that is punishable by law. If a person commits a crime and is detected, they could be arrested, charged and prosecuted. If found guilty, they will receive a sentence such as a community order, fine or imprisonment. Some illegal acts are not necessarily seen as deviant. For example, parking cars on double yellow lines or using a mobile phone whilst driving, even though these activities are against the law.

- **Deviance refers to behaviour that does not conform to a society's norms or rules**. If a person behaves in a way that is seen as deviant and this is discovered, it could lead to negative sanctions such as being told off, ignored or ridiculed. Some, but not all, deviant acts are also illegal. **Legal deviance is behaviour that is seen as 'abnormal' by most people in a society, but it does not break the law.**

Many sociologists argue that while **crime involves legally defined behaviour**, **deviance is socially defined.**

Whether an act is considered deviant or not depends on how people view and label the act. This means that deviance is judged according to the social setting or the context in which it takes place.

Historical evidence suggests that what is considered as deviant can change over time. E.g. attitudes to smoking and to homosexuality have changed in Britain post World War II.

Cross-cultural evidence suggests that what is seen as deviant can vary across cultures. E.g. differing attitudes as to what is acceptable for women to wear and what is seen as appropriate within their group or society.

Both historical and cross-cultural evidence also suggest that what is classed as criminal behaviour can change over time and vary between cultures. E.g. alcohol consumption was illegal in 1920s America and is still restricted in some countries today.

Topic 2 Social control

6.2 Social control ● informal and formal social control and unwritten rules ● agencies of informal social control o family o peer group o education o religion o media ● sanctions ● formal social control o role of the police and courts

<u>**What are social order and social control?**</u>

- Social order us necessary for society to run smoothly. The Functionalists approach argues that social order is based on consensus (agreement). The Marxist approach argues that social order is based on the power of the ruling class over the working class. Much of our behaviour is socially controlled by groups and society.

<u>**What is the difference between formal and informal social control?**</u>

- Formal social control is based on written rules and laws. Informal social control is based on informal social processes and is enforced through social pressure.

Formal social control is based on written rules that are set out in laws or in codes of conduct. It is the control of people's behaviour that is based on written laws and rules. It is usually associated with the

ways in which the state regulates and controls people's behaviour through, for example, the police force, the courts and prisons.

Agencies of social control are the various groups (such as peer groups) and organizations (such as the police force) in society that control or constrain people's behaviour and actions. Agencies of formal social control are bodies that make the formal written rules, enforce them or punish people who break them.

Informal social control is based on unwritten or 'taken-for-granted' rules and is enforced through social pressure from groups such as families, friends or beers. It is the control of people's behaviour that is based on social processes such as the approval or disapproval of others.

One way which individuals are encouraged to conform to informal social rules is through peer pressure when a group exerts social pressure on its members to conform the group's norms. Another way is through the rewards and punishments that some parents use to encourage their children to behave appropriately.

keywords
- **Agencies of social control**: the groups and organizations in society that control or constrain people's behaviour and actions
- **Crime**: an illegal act which is punishable by law
- **Deviance**: behaviour which does not conform to society's norms and values and, if detected, is likely to lead to negative sanctions. Deviance can be – but is not necessarily - illegal
- **Formal social control**: control of people's behaviour based on written laws and rules. Formal social control is usually associated with the ways the state regulates and controls our behaviour. The agencies of formal social control include the police force, courts and prisons
- **Informal social control**: control of people's behaviour based on social processes such as the approval or disapproval of others. Informal social control is enforced via peer pressure. The agencies of informal social control include peer groups and families
- **Negative sanctions**: sanctions that punish those who do not conform to the group's expectations, for example by ignoring them
- **Peer group**: a group of people who share a similar status and position in society, such as people of a similar age, outlook or occupation
- **Peer pressure**: the social pressure that a peer group puts on its members to encourage them to conform to the group's norms
- **Positive sanctions**: sanctions that reward those who behave according to the groups' expectations, for example through praise
- **Social order**: this occurs when society is stable, ordered and runs smoothly without continual disruption.

Topic 4 Theories of crime and deviance

6.4 Sociological theories and explanations of deviance and criminal behaviour (structural, subcultural, interactionist and feminist) • conflict versus consensus debate • consensus view of Functionalism o functions of crime o anomie, including the work of Merton and strain theory • Subcultural theory o Albert Cohen and delinquent sub-cultures • conflict view of Marxism o Chambliss and differential enforcement of the law o white collar and corporate crime • Interactionism o notion of the typical offender o labelling o self-fulfilling prophecy, including the work of Becker and the deviant career o moral panics • conflict view of Feminism o social control, including the work of Heidensohn on female conformity in a male dominated society o women and poverty including the work of Carlen o chivalry thesis • ethnicity and crime o racism o institutional racism o scapegoating

<u>What non-sociological explanations are there for criminal and deviant behaviour?</u>

- The cause of criminal and deviant behaviour have been explained in terms of psychological, biological and social factors. Psychological explanations focus on the psychological traits of individual offenders, such as being impulsive. Biological explanations focus on the genetic basis of criminals and antisocial behaviour.

<u>How do sociologists explain criminal and deviant behaviour?</u>

- Sociologists focus on social factors. Their explanations of crime and deviance include socialization patterns, opportunity structures and relative deprivation.

<u>What other sociological explanations of criminal and deviant behaviour are there</u>?

- Sub-culture theories explain crime and delinquency in terms of the values of a particular subculture and the influence of the peer group. Marxist theories explain crime as resulting from the way capitalist society is structured.

<u>How does labelling theory explain criminal and deviant behaviour?</u>

- Labelling theory explores how and why certain people such as working class boys) come to be labelled as deviant or criminal.

DIFFERENT EXPLANATIONS OF CRIME & DEVIANCE

EXPLAINING CRIME AND DEVIANCE

There are several different sociological explanations for criminal and deviant behaviour which focus on social factors.

- **Inadequate socialization within families**
  - This is an explanation of young people's involvement in crime and deviance. It highlights the negative influence of home environment and the failure of parents to socialize their children adequately. <u>New Right approaches argue that children whose parents fail to take responsibility for socializing them to accept society's norms and values correctly are more prone to crime.</u>
- **Sub-cultural theories**
  - Sub-cultural theories explain crime and deviance in terms of the values of a particular subculture and the influence of the peer group. Young males in particular learn such deviant behaviour by joining a peer group/gang where deviant behaviour is the norm such as vandalism or joyriding. <u>Albert Cohen, a sub-cultural theorist, argued that working-class boys joined delinquent subcultures to gain status within their peer group.</u>
- **Relative deprivation**
  - People feel relatively deprived when they seem themselves as badly off relative to the living standards of the particular group that they may compare themselves to. For example, a bank clerk who wants a mansion with a pool like that owned by their regional manager may commit fraud to acquire the necessary funds because they could never afford it any other way.
- **Marxist explanations**
  - This approach links crime to social inequalities that are built into capitalism. In a capitalist society, not everyone can gain wealth and status so some people commit crime to acquire the consumer goods and material possessions that others have and that the media promotes. <u>The Marxist approach is the belief that the legal system operates in favour of the rich. For example, rich people who commit expense account fraud or tax evasion are less likely to be convicted than working-class people who commit benefit fraud.</u>
- **Labelling theory**
  - Labelling theory explores how and why some people become labelled as deviant or criminal. <u>Cicourel, a phenomenologist, argued that a delinquent is someone who has been labelled as such. Being labelled deviant/criminal may result from the reaction of other people (such as the police) and may not be entirely due to an individual's actions or behaviour. Labelling someone may help to create a self-fulfilling prophecy by pushing that person further towards deviance/crime.</u>

In a deviant subculture, the group members' behaviour does not conform to society's norms.

Sub-cultural theory links crime and deviance among some teenagers to the values of their subculture. In the 1950s, Albert Cohen argued that young males learned to become delinquents by joining gangs in which delinquency already existed. Cohen linked delinquency to status frustration at school. These boys gained status through their delinquent subculture rather than from doing well at school.

On the other hand, the Marxist approach links crime to the workings of capitalist society. Labelling theory also disagrees with the sub-cultural theory and agrees that working-class boys may end up labelled as criminals because of the reactions and stereotypes of people such as probation officers, police offers or teachers. Middle-class teenagers who behave in the same way often avoid being labelled.

Conclusively, sub-cultural theorists would agree that teen crime and deviance is linked to membership of deviant subcultures. Marxist approaches put more emphasis on capitalism and labelling theory puts more emphasis on labelling and stereotyping of teenagers. However, sociologists would all agree that teenage crime and deviance results from social factors rather than from biological or psychological factors.

keywords
- **Relative deprivation**: this occurs when individuals or groups feel that they are badly off in relation to the living standards of their peers
- **Status**: refers to social positions linked to occupations and families. Can also refer to the amount of prestige/social standing that an individual in a particular social position is given by other members of the group or society
- **Status frustration**: Albert Cohen argued that working-class boys experience status frustration when they try – but fail – to meet middle-class expectations at school
- **Stereotype**: a fixed, standardized and distorted view of the characteristics of a particular group which are often based on prejudice
- **Subculture**: a social group which differs from the dominant/main culture in terms of its members' values, beliefs, customs, language, dress or diet and so on
- **Wealth**: ownership of assets such as property, land and works of art as well as money held in savings accounts and shares in companies

Topic 4 Sources of data on crime

6.5 Sources of data on crime • patterns and trends of criminal behaviour • official statistics • victim and self-report studies • usefulness of sources of data on crime o dark figure of crime o unreported and unrecorded crime o police bias and labelling o moral panics o invisible crime

What are the main sources of statistical data on the extent of crime?

- Official statistics on police recorded crime are published in the UK by the home office.
- Victim surveys and self-report studies also provide statistical data on the extent of crime. British crime surveys estimates of crime are higher than the figures on crimes recorded by the police.

How far do official statics on recorded crime measure the extent of crime?

- Not all crime is discovered, witnessed, reported or recorded, so official statistics on police recorded crime do not tell the whole story.

What is meant by the 'social construction' of official crime statistics?

- Official statistics on police recorded crime are based on a series of decisions made by, for example, victims and police officers, as such; they do not provide a true picture of crime levels.

SOURCES OF STATISTICAL DATA ON THE EXTENT OF CRIME

The two main measures of crime levels in Britain are:

- Official statistics of crimes recorded by the police
- Surveys of the public such as victim surveys and self-report studies

OFFICIAL STATISTICS OF CRIMES RECORDED BY THE POLICE

These are an important secondary source of quantitative data. Police recorded crime statistics exclude the 'hidden figure' of crime including unreported and unrecorded crime.

The following reasons for this are:

- **Some crimes are not witnessed/discovered**. For example, white-collar crimes such as fraud or misuse of expense accounts may not be discovered
- Some crimes that are witnessed or discovered are **not reported to the police**
  - **Less serious crimes** such as vandalism tend to be under-reported while most car theft is reported, probably for insurance purposes
  - People tend not to report crimes they see as **private**
  - Victims might not report a crime such as sexual assault because they **feel that the police will handle it insensitively**
  - **Employers might not report crimes that their employees commit.** For example, if company directors discover that one of their managers had stolen company funds,

they may not report it to the police in order to avoid negative publicity. Such white-collar crime is under-represented in police-recorded crime statistics.

- **The police do not necessarily record all crime that is reported to them**
    - They may see the crime as **too trivial to record**
    - They may **doubt the complainant's report**
    - They may have **insufficient evidence** that a crime has actually been committed

Sociologists argue that police recorded crime stats are 'socially constructed'. This means that the stats are the outcome of the decisions and choices made by the people, such as witnesses, victims or police officers, who are involved in their construction.

ADVANTAGES & DISADVANTAGES OF OFFICIAL POLICE-RECORDED CRIME STATISTICS…

Advantages

- **Readily available and cheap** source of secondary data
- Provide **a wealth of statistical information** on recorded crime rates
- Possible to **identify long-term trends** in recorded crime rates

Disadvantages

- Based on recorded crimes and **exclude crimes that are not discovered, reported or recorded**
- Are socially constructed and therefore **do not provide a valid or true picture of crime levels**

VICTIM SURVEYS

Victim surveys ask people about their experiences of crime.

The British Crime Survey (BCS), for example, measures crime via surveys with large samples of households in England and Wales. It interviews people about whether they have been a victim of particular offences during the last year, and if so, whether they reported the crimes to the police.

Victim surveys indicate that many victims do not report crimes to the police. This under-reporting helps to explain why the police-recorded crime statistics are lower than the estimated statistics based on victim surveys.

ADVANTAGES & DISADVANTAGES OF OFFICIAL VICTIM SURVEYS…

Advantages

- Provide statistical information on some **crimes that are not reported to the police**
- Provide **valuable information about people's experiences** of crime
- BCS is carried out each year so it provides **useful info on trends over time**

Disadvantages

- Surveys such as BCS **do not cover all crimes**. E.g. they exclude 'victimless' crimes
- BCS is a household survey so it **does not question homeless people or those who live in institutions**
- **Respondents may not tell the truth** about their experiences of being a victim of a crime

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SELF-REPORT STUDIES

Self-report studies ask people to reveal offences they have committed.

The Offending, Crime and Justice Survey (OCJS), for example, is a longitudinal study that measures the extent of self-reported offending, drug use and antisocial behaviour in England & Wales, particularly among 10-25 year olds.

The 2004 OCJS interviewed around 5000 young people about their involvement in various offences during the previous year. Each interview lasted for around one hour. Interviewees listened to the more sensitive questions via headphones and entered their answers on a laptop without the interviewer's help. By asking people to disclose offences they have committed, the OCJS provides information on offenders and offences that are not necessarily dealt with by official agents of formal social control.

ADVANTAGES & DISADVANTAGES OF SELF-REPORT STUDIES…

Advantages

- **Provides information on offenders** who are not necessarily dealt with by police or courts
- **Provides information on offences** which are not necessarily dealt with by police or courts

Disadvantages

- The OCJS is a household survey so **does not question homeless people or people who live in institutions**
- **Respondents may not tell the truth** about their involvement in crime. E.g. they may exaggerate/may not admit to some offences

keywords
- **Official statistics**: Existing sources of quantitative data compiled by government agencies such as the Home Office

- **Self-report study**: a survey that asks respondents whether they have committed particular offences during a specified time period such as the last year. Such studies provide information on offenders and offences that are not necessarily dealt with by the police or courts
- **Social construction**: this term is often used in relation to age, gender and race and reflects the idea that, rather than being rooted in biology or nature, these are created by society or culture
- **Victim survey**: a study which asks respondents about their experiences of crime, whether they have been victims of particular offences during a specified time period such as the last year and, if so, whether they reported the crimes to the police
- **White-collar crime**: this term refers broadly to crimes committed by people in relatively high status positions, such as accountants, doctors or solicitors, during their work. Examples include tax evasion and fiddling expense accounts at work

Topic 5 Patterns of crime and deviance

6.3 Patterns of criminal and deviant behaviour ● patterns of criminal behaviour by: o social class o ethnicity o age o gender

What is the relationship between involvement in crime and age?

- Official statistics on police recorded crime suggest that criminal activity is more commonly found in particular social groups such as young males. Possible explanations for this include group peer pressure.

What is the relationship between crime and gender?

Official statistics on police record crime suggest that more men commit crime than women. Possible explanations for this include gender socialization and the chivalry effect. 85'000 in prison only 3000 are women.

How do we explain women's increasing involvement in crime?

- Recent statistics suggest that the number of female offenders in the UK is increasing.

- Possible explanations for this include changing social position of women and changing attitudes to gender and crime. Ladettes appearing, weakening of social control as women become more independent. Feminism.

What is the relationship between involvement in crime and ethnicity?

Members of some ethnic groups are over-represented while others are under-represented in the prison population relative to their proportion in the general population.

How do we explain the patterns in statistics on crime and ethnicity?

- Crime statistics are seen as reflecting policing methods and bias within the criminal justice system.

What is the relationship between involvement in crime social class and locality?

- Official statistics suggest that criminal activity is more common in working class and poorer areas. Working class and ethnic minorities are more likely to be victims. However, studies of white-collar and corporate crime paint a more complex picture.

Why is youth crime seen as a social problem?

- Crime is a major focus of concern and debate among politicians, the media and the public. Teenage crime in particular is seen as a social problem. In 2019 knife crime has been the subject of a moral panic.

What are the links between racism and crime?

- Racism and racially aggravated crime are examples of social problems that governments have tried to tackle in recent years. Hate crime has risen since the EU referendum in 2016.

THE SOCIAL DISTRIBUTION OF CRIME

Official statistics suggest that members of some social groups are more likely to commit crime than others. There are links between involvement in crime and social factors such as age, gender and locality.

AGE & CRIME

Official statistics indicate that younger people, particularly young men, are more likely to engage in crime than older people.

Possible explanations for this include **peer group pressure and sub-cultural influences.**

GENDER & CRIME

Official statistics suggest that, generally, more men than women commit crime. Only 20% of people found guilty of/cautioned for serious offences are women.

Possible explanations for this could include gender socialization processes, gender differences in opportunities to become involved in crime and the chivalry effect that operates during legal processes such as reporting, police response, trial and sentencing.

The number of female offenders in the UK, however, appears to be increasing.

- This may be due partly to **changes in the social position of women** who now have **similar opportunities** to men to act illegally.
- Another explanation of the increase relates to **changing attitudes to gender**. Shifts in attitudes may mean that **women are no longer subject to the chivalry effect** within the criminal justice system.

Some sociologists argue that women are less likely to commit crimes than men because of gender socialization. Males are often under peer pressure to act in masculine ways. This could lead to alcohol-related violence and conflict with the police.

Other sociologists argue that females have fewer opportunities to commit crime. Girls, for example, are often supervised more closely than boys.

Another view is that female offenders who conform to gender stereotypes (e.g. wearing feminine clothing during the trial) are treated less harshly than men within the criminal justice process. This is known as the 'chivalry effect'.

However, official statistics suggest that nowadays females are more likely to commit crimes than thirty years ago. On the other hand, it may be that females are now more likely to be arrested, charged and convicted because the chivalry effect is declining.

Conclusively, sociologists do agree that generally females are less likely to commit crimes than males. However, they disagree on how to explain this and also why official statistics suggest that female crime has increased.

ETHNICITY & CRIME

Official statistics show that people from some ethnic groups are over-represented in prisons relative to their proportion in the population.

For example, black people are around five times more likely to be in prison than white people. Such figures could suggest that members of some ethnic groups commit more crime than others.

However, many sociologists argue that crime statistics exaggerate crime among some ethnic groups. The statistics are seen as reflecting the way that policing is carried out and also bias within the criminal justice system i.e. institutional racism. Research shows that black people are more likely to be stopped and searched, prosecuted and convicted than people from other ethnic groups.

SOCIAL CLASS & CRIME

There is evidence that working-class people are over-represented in prisons relative to their proportion in the population.

One view is that working-class people have fewer opportunities to succeed via legal routes such as education. Thus, they are more likely than middle-class people to resort to crime for financial gain. Another view suggests that working-class subcultures stress deviant/criminal behaviour as a way of achieving status among peers.

Alternatively, working-class people may be over-represented in prisons due to social class bias within the criminal justice system. Some sociologists argue that the law is more strictly enforced against working-class people engaging in robbery/benefit fraud than against middle-class people engaging in expense account fraud/tax evasion. **This is a Marxist approach to social class and crime –Marxists believe that the legal system works in the favour of the rich.**

LOCALITY & CRIME

The crime rate is generally higher in urban areas than in rural areas. It is higher in the most deprived areas of Britain compared with the least deprived areas.

One view is that urban areas have higher levels of poverty and unemployment which provide a context for crimes such as theft. Another view is that there are more opportunities to commit crime in an urban setting such as city centres, compared with rural areas.

An alternative view is that the statistics may reflect differences in policing levels/methods between urban and rural areas.

keywords
- **Chivalry effect**: the idea that female offenders are seen as deserving more lenient treatment within the criminal justice system and the impact of this on things like sentencing

<u>**Crime and Deviance studies.**</u>

These are extras, but the ones in red you should know.

Cohen – Juvenile delinquency down to membership of delinquent groups or 'gangs' – boys join these because of failure in education system where they experience 'status frustration' in trying and failing to meet middle class expectations.

Willis – 'Learning to Labour; Working class boys reject the values of their school and form an anti-school culture.

Cicourel – participant observation with law enforcement showed views were influenced by what they thought was the image of a 'typical delinquent'.

Jansson – Crimes most likely to be reported to police are those where an insurance claim is likely to be made.

Maguire – Many more males, young people, black people, poor people and poorly educated people in the prison population relative to the general population.

Garrod – Increase in the number of women in prisons in last 10 years almost entirely due to harsher sentences rather than women committing more crimes.

Tombs – Little effort by the government to keep track of white collar crime.

Walklate – Four key social groups most likely to be victims of crime are the poor, the young, males and minority ethnic groups.

Reiner – Studies of news reports have shown violent crimes are over represented compared with their incidence in official statistics on crime. Also, they over exaggerate the risks to white people, women and the elderly.

Pitts – Youth crime is often on the front pages of newspapers and this creates an anxiety among members of the public.

Newburn – However, a significant amount of crime is committed by young people which adds to the idea of young offenders being seen as folk devils.

Crime and Deviance 4 mark questions.

Explain what sociologists mean by deviance. *(4 marks)*

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_____
_____
_____

Explain what sociologists mean by labelling. *(4 marks)*

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_____
_____
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Explain what sociologists studying deviance mean by peer pressure. *(4 marks)*

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_____

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Explain what sociologists mean by white-collar crime. *(4 marks)*

_____

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_____

_____

8   Mark questions

Explain why social control is needed in society. (8)

You should explore at least two reasons in your answer.

Explain why we have crime in society. (8)

You should explore at least two reasons in your answer.

Explain why sociologists have different views on the role of the police and courts. (8)

You should explore at least two views in your answer.

15 mark questions

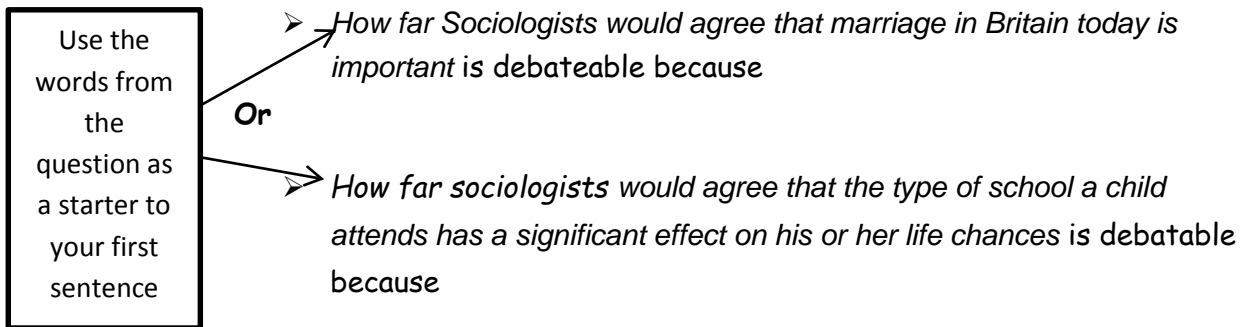**These are the biggest essays and invite a debate.**

Writing your essay

For your question, identify at least three points – there **must** be at least ONE in each column.

Sociologists WOULD agree	Sociologists WOULD NOT agree

Introductions

Use the question at the beginning of your introduction for example;

Use the words from the question as a starter to your first sentence

➤ *How far Sociologists would agree that marriage in Britain today is important* is debateable because

Or

➤ *How far sociologists would agree that the type of school a child attends has a significant effect on his or her life chances* is debatable because

Use the introduction to **break down what the question is** asking you;

- **Define any key terms** it mentions – EG *"life chances"*
- **There are usually two sides to the argument.**

Organise your main paragraphs. Each paragraph should have an argument,theory, key idea, evidence, sociologists idea in it.

Make sure you refer back to the question title at the end of the paragraph.

Link your next paragraph

A contrasting view of ….. is …..

- Is there a **theory** it is talking about – EG Marxism / Functionalism / New Right

The very best essays will have a clear line of thought pursued throughout the essay. You can make it clear in the introduction what your overall conclusion will be. The rest of the essay is spent justifying this view. You still need to consider both sides , but you can make it clear what you are arguing.

Conclusion starters

Your conclusion **should address the essay question directly** (weigh up all the evidence/theories) **and answer the 'How far.' part. E.g.**

- The evidence would support/not support/partly support the view that……
  because…
- To sum up it would appear that many/some sociologists agree/disagree…

- In conclusion it would seem that most/few sociologists agree/disagree…

- Mention any statistics that support your conclusion

These are all possible ideas for crime 15 markers. Think of arguments for and against.

Gender is closely linked to crime? Discuss.

Sociologists WOULD agree	Sociologists WOULD NOT agree

Sociologists would agree that deprivation is the main cause of most crime in modern Britain. Discuss.

Sociologists WOULD agree	Sociologists WOULD NOT agree

Sociologists would agree that most anti-social behaviour is carried out by young men. Discuss

Sociologists WOULD agree	Sociologists WOULD NOT agree

Sociologists would agree that official statistics of crimes recorded by the police provide a complete picture of the extent of crime in Britain. Discuss.

Sociologists WOULD agree	Sociologists WOULD NOT agree

Official statistics of police recorded crime exaggerate crime levels amongst young people (or could be amongst some ethnic groups). Discuss

Sociologists WOULD agree	Sociologists WOULD NOT agree

People who commit crimes do so because they have different norms and values from the rest of society? Discuss.

Sociologists WOULD agree	Sociologists WOULD NOT agree

Working class males are more likely to commit crimes than other sections of society. Discuss.

Sociologists WOULD agree	Sociologists WOULD NOT agree

Working-class criminals are more likely to be convicted than middle-class and upper-class 'white collar' criminals. Discuss.

Sociologists WOULD agree	Sociologists WOULD NOT agree

Teenage criminal and deviant behaviour results from parents failing to socialise their children correctly. Discuss

Sociologists WOULD agree	Sociologists WOULD NOT agree

Women are less likely to commit crime than men. Discuss.

Sociologists WOULD agree	Sociologists WOULD NOT agree