



# GCSE Crime & Deviance Knowledge Organiser



# Crime and Deviance Knowledge Organiser



## Who commits crime? Why do differences occur?

Gender	Ethnicity	Class	Age
<p><b>Women committing less crime.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gender socialisation</li> <li>Fewer opportunities</li> <li>More domestic responsibilities</li> <li>May be treated differently in the criminal justice system e.g. sad, rather than bad, given a lenient sentence. Chivalry thesis</li> <li>Others argue they are treated more harshly- double deviancy. Therefore do not commit crime.</li> </ul> <p><b>Women's involvement in crime is increasing:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lost a lot of their controls and restraints</li> <li>Women are not experiencing equality in the work place-gender pay gap.</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inaccurate statistics</li> <li>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)</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Media reinforcing views- reporting in the media on particular groups can generate mistrust and hostility.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inaccurate statistics- lower-class criminals may commit crimes that are more identifiable and more likely to be targeted by the police.</li> <li>Socialisation</li> <li>Material deprivation- may commit crime to obtain the things others have</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Anomie- mismatch between goals and the means to achieve the goals.</li> <li>Labelling.</li> <li>White collar crime is not as easily identifiable as crimes committed at lower levels.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Status frustration- lack of independence and caught in transition. Lack of responsibilities can lead them to drift into deviant and criminal behaviour.</li> <li>Peer Pressure</li> <li>Edgework- thrill seeking and risk-taking. Getting a "buzz" from committing a crime or displaying deviant behaviour.</li> <li>Socialisation- Some young people are inadequately socialised and have learned criminal behaviour as a norm or value.</li> <li>Police stereotyping</li> <li>Media moral panic/folk devil.</li> <li>Subcultural theory</li> </ul> 

## 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.





# 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.

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

**Agencies of formal social control:**

- Houses of Parliament

**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**



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.



## 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.

**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.

## Those at high risk from crime:

**Class:** The poor, living in private rented housing  
**Gender:** Males  
**Age:** The Young  
**Ethnicity:** Minority ethnic groups.

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'

Interactionalists

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.

**Crime:** An illegal act punishable by law.

**Deviance:** Behaviour that does not conform to

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

### Albert Cohen (1955) (Functionalist)

- This functionalist study explores why working-class boys join delinquent subcultures and, as a result, are more likely to commit crimes.
- As a functionalist, Cohen thinks that everyone learns the same values and goals through socialisation, part of creating a value consensus. In that way, working-class boys have the same life goals as middle-class boys. However, Cohen notes that working class boys are much less likely to achieve at school than middle-class children. For Cohen this is down to **cultural deprivation** - working-class attitudes to school and education - rather than a structural issue relating to capitalism or **material deprivation**.



- Because pupils don't get the status they crave, they instead form delinquent subcultures. A subculture is a group with its own norms and values, separate from those of mainstream society. For Cohen, it was not that the members had not been socialised into mainstream values - they had - but to gain status they turned them on their head. So things that would be viewed as bad in mainstream society - like vandalism and truancy - are viewed as good within the subculture. In some ways this is similar to Paul Willis' study of "the lads" (even though he was coming from a Marxist perspective, rather than a functionalist one).
- Cohen's theory is often referred to as status frustration and is used to explain why young working-class males are more likely to commit crimes than other people, why they do it in groups, and why it includes crimes that does not materially benefit them (i.e., why they might commit vandalism or fight). It was inspired by Merton's strain theory but developed it further to explain crime by groups.
- Critics suggest that members of delinquent subcultures may have been socialised into deviant values, rather than sharing the same values and goals as everyone else. Others question why Cohen only focused on boys. Marxist critics criticise Cohen for ignoring the causes of social class inequality.

### Robert Merton (1938) (Functionalist)

- Merton argued that people were encouraged to believe in the American Dream: that is that, through hard work, everyone can have a comfortable life with their own home and access to consumer goods. However, Merton noted that, in reality, achieving this was much easier for some people than others. In other words, there was a strain between what people wanted in life and the socially-acceptable way of getting it (hard work, qualifications, etc.) Merton argued that people could respond to that strain in 5 different ways:

#### Robert Merton's Strain Theory of Deviance

Adaptations	Goals	Means
Conformity	Accept	Accept
Innovation	Accept	Reject
Ritualism	Reject	Accept
Retreatism	Reject	Reject
Rebellion	Replace	Replace

PEARSON

1. **Conformity.** This is where people accept both the social goals (material success) and the social means (hard work, qualifications, etc.) and so they work hard and try to be successful that way. This does not lead to crime.
2. **Innovation.** This is where people accept the social goals (material success) but reject the social means (hard work, qualifications, etc.) and so they try and find other ways to get material success. While these ways are not necessarily criminal, some innovators will break the law as a shortcut to material success. Merton argues that this might be a popular option from "lower" class individuals who might struggle to get the best qualifications. (Merton does not focus his study on why this might be the case).
3. **Ritualism.** This is the idea that some people are not striving for the social goals (material success) - perhaps because, like the innovators, they think it is too difficult / out of reach - but do embrace the social means (hard work, qualifications, etc.) because they have been socialised to conform. Merton suggests that such people may stay in low-status occupations but have a strong focus on rules and bureaucracy (what is sometimes described as "jobsworths").
4. **Retreatism.** Merton suggests some people reject both the social goals and the social means and drop out of society altogether. Merton suggests that such people could come from any social class background, but they are likely to be deviant and commit crimes such as illegal drug use.
5. **Rebellion.** Finally, there are those who, like the retreatists, reject goals and means but set out to replace them with new ones. For Merton these are revolutionaries who want to build a new sort of society. Criticisms of strain theory include it doesn't really explain deviant or criminal behaviour that doesn't help achieve material success (such as vandalism or fighting) and doesn't explain why people often break the law in groups.



### Pat Carlen (1988) (Feminist)

- This feminist study, based on interviews with 39 women, looks at why some women commit crimes.
- Most sociologists who have considered the issue of gender and crime have focused on why women commit far fewer crimes than men - after all, that is what the crime statistics show us. However, some women do commit crimes, and Carlen looked into that question.
- She concluded that working class women made a class deal and a gender deal that generally kept them under control. The class deal was that they would work hard in exchange for pay which they could then use to pay for consumer goods. The gender deal was that they should do domestic labour and give love and companionship to their husbands, in exchange for love and financial support. Both these deals keep working-class women respectable.
- It was, Carlen suggested, when these deals broke down that working-class women were then more likely to commit crimes, as a rational choice. For Carlen both these "deals" were really exploitative. As a feminist she believed that women were exploited in families, and she also believed that the working class was exploited by employers in the capitalist system (agreeing with Marxists). However, there was an illusion of fairness and respectability about these deals that, most of the time, kept women under control.
- In one respect, Carlen agrees with functionalists, such as Durkheim or Hirschi, that social control prevents crime, and a lack of control can lead to an increase in crime. But Carlen points out how that control is often maintained through exploitation.






















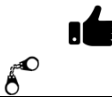
### Frances Heidensohn (1985, 1996) (Feminist)











- Feminist Frances Heidensohn outlined an argument for why women are less likely to commit crime than men, in her classic book from the 1980s. Statistics show that men are much more likely to commit crimes than women. There have been various studies as to why this might be the case. Heidensohn seeks to explain it in terms of the way girls and women are controlled by men, leaving them with fewer opportunities to commit crime. This is known as **control theory**.
- According to Heidensohn, girls are controlled by fathers and male siblings. They have to be home earlier than their brothers, and have less time when they are unsupervised. While boys were out playing together out of the home, girls had a "bedroom culture" in the home. She also said that there was more informal control of girls than boys in society more generally. (To be "respectable" girls had less freedom than boys).
- Heidensohn argued that this control, both by family members and social expectations, continues for women in adulthood. They go from being controlled by fathers to being controlled by husbands. While working men would socialise with their fellow workers at pubs or sport, working women would return home to carry out homework and childcare. As such, Heidensohn suggests that it is patriarchy - the male-dominated society - which accounts for women committing fewer crimes than men.
- Some suggest that this is an outdated picture. Are girls and women still more controlled than boys and men? Freda Adler suggests that women today have much more freedom (and suggests that is why female crime is now increasing.)
- Functionalists would suggest that men and women perform different gender roles in the family in order for society to function properly, rather than society being patriarchal, and male dominated.








### Howard Becker (1997) (Interactionist)

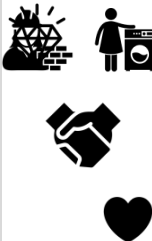


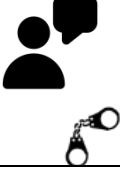





- Becker's classic study in which he introduced his labelling theory and the famous quotation: "**deviant behaviour is behaviour people so label**".
- Howard Becker was an interactionist. He was interested in the idea of deviance, not so much as a social problem that needed to be solved, but as an idea: **how people chose to see other people and how they chose to see themselves**. He was interested in interactions between individuals and small groups and the impact of such interactions.
- The heart of labelling theory is actually quite a simple idea: what makes something deviant is the fact that other people say it is deviant. As such, the interesting thing (for Becker) was not the deviant act itself but the reaction to it. An example to explain this could be the ultimate deviant or illegal act: killing someone. Initially, we might think that killing someone would always be deemed deviant, but actually it depends on the context: for soldiers in a war, for example, killing someone is part of their job: it is normal. So it is not the act itself which is deviant - what matters is where it is happening, who is doing it, who is observing it, how agents of social control (e.g. the police) respond to it, etc. This could be true of almost any deviant act we can think of. Some anti-social behaviour might be seen as "high jinx" when carried out by white, middle-class students and as deviant and unacceptable behaviour when carried out by other youths.
- It is the agents of social control who have the ability to make a label stick, and do their labelling in public. Once someone has been labelled as a deviant, there are a number of possible consequences. The first is that it could become their master status - the way they see themselves - and this can lead to a self-fulfilling prophecy where people end up living up to their label, starting a deviant career and ending up part of a deviant subculture. It also has the effect that people might want to socialise with that person, or offer them work, and this too can effect the likelihood of them following a deviant career.
- Because Becker is an interactionist, rather than a Marxist, he does not develop the idea that this process might be designed deliberately to control and police the working class (although others, like Stuart Hall, have considered these ideas). Others question whether Becker's concept is useful in the real fight against crime. Deviant behaviour may just be the behaviour that people so label, but for the victims of crime, crime is a very real problem that requires solutions.

KEY TERMS		
CRIME		Actions that break the criminal law e.g., burglary, murder, identity theft etc.
DEVIANCE		Actions that do not conform to society's norms. Deviant behaviour is socially defined and varies between cultures and over time.
SOCIAL ORDER		The way in which various components of society work together to keep society as it is.
TWO PERSPECTIVES ON SOCIAL ORDER		<b>Consensus perspectives</b> such as <b>functionalism</b> argue that social order is maintained because most people agree with society's norms and rules.
		<b>Conflict approaches</b> such as <b>Marxism</b> argue that social order is maintained because one group (e.g. the bourgeoisie) have the power to influence the laws and maintain order through social control.
FORMAL SOCIAL CONTROL		The ways that the state controls people's behaviour based on <b>laws and written rules</b> .
INFORMAL SOCIAL CONTROL		The way that people's behaviour is controlled based on <b>unwritten rules and sanctions</b> such as public approval or disapproval. It is enforced via <b>peer and social pressure</b> .
AGENCIES OF SOCIAL CONTROL		<b>Groups that help the state to control people's behaviour.</b> These include families, schools, the police, courts, prison service, probation service etc.
ANOMIE		When a society's <b>norms and values disintegrate or disappear</b> .
LABELLING THEORY		The theory that <b>people often behave in ways that reflect how others have labelled them</b> .
SUBCULTURE		A group that has <b>norms and values that are different to mainstream society</b> and that often cause or influence illegal/deviant behaviour e.g. gangs.
WHITE COLLAR CRIME		<b>Non-violent, financial crimes</b> such as tax evasion, fraud, bribery etc. They are <b>usually committed by businesses/governments</b> and are underreported.
FOLK DEVIL		A media created <b>villain or enemy of society</b> .
MORAL PANIC		An <b>over exaggerated public response</b> to some social issue that relates to right and wrong.
PUBLIC DEBATES OVER CRIMINAL AND DEVIANT BEHAVIOUR		
MEDIA COVERAGE		The media decide what is 'newsworthy.' They tend to exaggerate certain types of crime (e.g. violent street crime), which is known as <b>media amplification</b> . They also play a role in <b>agenda setting</b> by focusing on certain issues and views and therefore influence the public's view on social problems which in turn causes politicians to take action.
VIOLENT CRIME		<b>Violent crime (e.g. knife crime) gets a high profile</b> in the media and therefore the public become concerned about it and politicians feel that they have to do something about it.
SENTENCING		Some people believe that <b>prison sentences are too soft</b> and that many prisoners get released too early. There is also the question of whether some crimes deserve a prison sentence at all.
TREATMENT OF YOUNG OFFENDERS		There has been large a rise in <b>violence, sexual abuse, suicide and self harm in youth prisons</b> (e.g. Feltham) and some people want them to be closed down.
FOLK DEVILS AND MORAL PANIC		The interactionist Cohen argues that the media often portray an oversimplified version of events that creates a <b>folk devil</b> (e.g. drill music). These oversimplified versions of events can lead to a <b>moral panic</b> .
CRIME AND DEVIANCE –PERSPECTIVES ON CRIME AND DEVIANCE		
FUNCTIONALIST PERSPECTIVE		1. <b>A limited amount of crime is necessary</b> for society to improve. All social change begins with some sort of deviance

		2. <b>Crime has some positive functions</b> , such as emphasising the boundaries of acceptable behaviour and binding communities together (e.g. when they condemn a horrific crime)
		3. <b>Too much crime is bad for society</b> and can lead to its collapse.
MERTON'S STRAIN THEORY		The functionalist Merton argues that <b>crime occurs when people can't achieve the goals that they have been socialised to strive for</b> (e.g. wealth) through socially acceptable means. This leads to <b>anomie</b> and high rates of crime.
INTERACTIONIST PERSPECTIVE		Interactionists argue that <b>crime and deviance are socially constructed</b> and that people in power label certain people as deviant and they then are more likely to commit crime.
BECKER'S LABELLING THEORY		The interactionist Becker argues that what makes something deviant is not the act itself but how people label it. For example, killing someone is usually deviant but not during a war. Through <b>informal social control</b> labels stick and become part of someone's <b>master status</b> (the way they see themselves), leading to a <b>deviant career</b> and perhaps to someone becoming part of a <b>deviant subculture</b> .
MARXIST PERSPECTIVE		Marxists argue that <b>capitalism itself causes crime</b> . It encourages people to want and value material possessions but exploits the working class so that they can't afford them. It is inevitable that <b>the working class will commit crime to try and get material possessions or express their frustration with the system</b> .
		<b>Agencies of social control</b> act in the interests of the bourgeoisie and <b>target certain types of crime</b> that are more likely to be committed by the working class (e.g. knife crime rather than <b>white collar crime</b> ).
FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE		The feminist perspective examines the way that women are treated by society. Many <b>crimes against women such as rape or domestic violence are under reported</b> and have a low conviction rate.
		When women commit certain crimes (e.g. crimes against children) the <b>double deviance thesis</b> suggests that they will receive a harsher punishment because they have broken gender norms as well as the law.
HEIDENSOHN ON FEMALE CONFORMITY		The feminist Heidensohn uses <b>control theory</b> to explain why women have lower rates of recorded crimes than men. She argues that <b>women are controlled by men</b> , leaving them with fewer opportunities to commit crime. For example, <b>girls are controlled by their fathers</b> and have to be home earlier than boys, <b>women are often controlled by male managers or supervisors</b> and many women do not go out at night because they are <b>afraid of male violence</b> .

FACTORS AFFECTING CRIMINAL AND DEVIANT BEHAVIOUR		
SOCIAL CLASS		Official crime statistics indicate that <b>working class people are more likely to commit crime than other classes</b> and they are over represented in prisons.
GENDER		Official crime statistics indicate <b>that females are less likely to offend than males</b> .
ETHNICITY		Crime statistics shows that <b>members of some ethnic groups are more likely to offend than others</b> .
AGE		Crime statistics indicate that <b>criminal activity is more commonly found in particular age groups (e.g. adolescents/young adults)</b> .
ALBERT COHEN ON DELINQUENT SUBCULTURES		Cohen argues that <b>working class boys often underachieve in school</b> due to the middle class norms and values and so become part of a <b>subculture</b> (e.g. a gang) where they can achieve status in other ways. In these subcultures they learn to be <b>delinquent</b> and commit crime.



<b>CARLEN ON WOMEN, CRIME AND POVERTY</b>		Carlen interviewed 39 women to investigate why women commit crime. She suggests that working class women often don't commit crime because they have made a ' <b>class deal</b> ' and a ' <b>gender deal</b> ' with society. The <b>class deal</b> is that they will be able to buy goods if they work hard. The <b>gender deal</b> is that they should do domestic labour in return for love and financial support from a male partner. Carlen argues that both of these deals are actually exploitative but give women the illusion of fairness. However, <b>if working class women believe that these deals have been broken they are more likely to commit crime.</b>
<b>DATA ON CRIME</b>		
<b>POLICE RECORDED CRIME</b>		<b>Police recorded crime statistics do not always provide an accurate picture of actual crimes committed</b> because some victims do not report crimes and the police do not record all crimes (e.g. if they see a crime as not important).
<b>VICTIM SURVEYS</b>		<b>Victim surveys ask people about their experiences of crime</b> (e.g. CSEW: Crime Survey for England and Wales). These provide data about crimes that are not recorded by the police but do not cover all crimes (e.g. murder).
<b>SELF-REPORT STUDIES</b>		<b>Self report studies ask people about the crimes they have committed</b> (e.g. OCJS: Offending, Crime and Justice Survey). These provide information on some crimes that are not recorded by the police (e.g. vandalism) but are unlikely to reveal much about more serious crimes as people are unlikely to self-report them.
<b>PATTERNS AND TRENDS</b>		The CSEW shows that <b>UK crime has been falling steadily for the last 20 years</b> . However, <b>there has been an increase in online crimes</b> and there is a <b>growth in serious violence</b> , particularly in urban areas like London and Manchester.
<b>THE 'DARK FIGURE' OF CRIME</b>		<b>The dark figure of crime includes all of the crimes that are not recorded.</b> This could be for a number of reasons (e.g. fear of reprisal, crime committed by family member, the victim is not aware that the act was a crime).
<b>LABELLING THEORY</b>		<b>Behaviour becomes deviant when people such as police officers define it as deviant.</b>
<b>FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE</b>		Many crime statistics, particularly police recorded crimes, <b>under represent crimes against women such as domestic violence.</b>
<b>MARXIST PERSPECTIVE</b>		Many crime statistics, particularly police recorded crimes, <b>under represent white collar crimes such as tax evasion.</b>

**12 marker questions will make up 48% of your overall grade. See the examples in the next few pages of how examiners view each of the responses and remember the key points directly below.**

Mini essay. Allow a minimum of 12 minutes to answer this question, **ideally 15 minutes**. Clarify any key terms and decide on **at least two main points** that create an argument within your answer.

At least two main paragraphs (one on each perspective, or **one for and one against** the view stated in the question). Each paragraph should use PEEL structure to give arguments for / against each side. Backed up with sociological theory / evidence / studies. Those aiming to stretch themselves should work on the PEELE structure where there is also a **direct evaluation point at the end of the paragraph** (either in support of the point or a criticism of it).

You must have a conclusion which **explicitly states how far sociologists agree / disagree** with the statement & why.

## How to answer the different questions in the GCSE Sociology exam

Question Number	Marks Available	Key word instruction	Notes
1 & 2	1 Mark	Select	Multiple choice. Choose the correct definition from key word lists
3	3 marks	Describe one...	Write a short paragraph. Keep your answer focused on the question asked & ensure you describe and give an example where appropriate. Use the PEE (point, explain, example) method to answer this.
4	3 marks	Identify & describe one...	One mark for identifying, and two for the description. Back up with an example, evidence or sociologist. Use the PEE method to answer this.
<b>Source Material – Item ...</b>			
5	2 marks	Examine one Strength / Weakness of...	<p>You will be asked to identify a strength or weakness from a piece of research. Use the Item to identify the strength/weakness &amp; use a small "quote" to show where you have identified it.</p> <p>One mark for identifying the relevant strength / weakness. Second mark for providing evidence of <u>why</u> it is a strength / weakness (look for this in the source material/Item)</p>
6	4 marks	Identify and explain one...	<p>One mark for identifying the issue and three marks for explaining why it is an issue.</p> <p>The explanation should refer specifically to the issue raised, and should be supported with evidence / sociologists or studies.</p> <p>Use the PEEL (point, explain, example, link back) method to answer this.</p>
7	4 marks	Identify and explain one...	<p>This question uses the same structure as that of Q6, but instead of looking at the item, you need to apply your knowledge of research methods.</p> <p>One mark for identifying the advantage / disadvantage of a particular research method. Three marks for explaining why it is an advantage / disadvantage. To get the full marks, you must relate it to the specific topic (context) being studied.</p>
8	4 marks	From Item... Identify and explain	<p>This question asks you to refer to the 25 named studies as specified by AQA on the specification.</p> <p>One mark for identifying an aspect of the research undertaken by one of these 25 studies (such as the research method they used) and then three marks for your explanation of their study.</p>
9	4 marks	Identify one... and explain	<p>One mark for identifying one aspect of that study and then three marks for explaining how you would research this, using research methods. For full marks, you must apply your knowledge of research methods to that exact area of research.</p>
10 & 11	12 marks	Discuss how far sociologists would agree...	<p>Mini essay. Allow a minimum of 12 minutes to answer this question, ideally 15 minutes. Clarify any key terms and decide on at least two main points that create an argument within your answer.</p> <p>At least two main paragraphs (one on each perspective, or one for and one against the view stated in the question). Each paragraph should use PEEL structure to give arguments for / against each side. Backed up with sociological theory / evidence / studies. Those aiming to stretch themselves should work on the PEELE structure where there is also a direct evaluation point at the end of the paragraph (either in support of the point or a criticism of it).</p> <p>You <u>must</u> have a conclusion which explicitly states how far sociologists agree / disagree with the statement &amp; why.</p>

**Question 11:** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that the mass media can affect people's awareness of how much crime there is in society.

[12 marks]

**Student one:**

Some sociologists believe that the media can affect people's awareness of crime by news values. News values are things that journalists and editors use to decide what is newsworthy. They will consider different factors such as how long the story will be newsworthy for. For example, a story about a petty crime will not be as newsworthy as a serial killer. Another factor used is proximity, how close the news will be. If the news is based in the UK, a story about a British person it will be more newsworthy than a murder of a foreign person.

Another way people's awareness of the media is the backwards law. This is where the media over-exaggerate knife crimes and murder and under-exaggerate small crimes such as property damage. If people start to believe knife crime is on the rise this could lead to a moral panic. This is where a news story has been overinflated and causes the general public to panic. Marxists believe that the media is owned by a few, large companies. They believe that the media has been designed to serve the needs of the bourgeoisie (upper-class). This means that white-collar crimes such as fraud are ignored and working-class crimes such as mugging and petty theft are over-exaggerated.

In conclusion, I believe that most sociologist including Marxist and Interactionist, would agree that the mass media affects people's awareness of how much crime there is in society. This is done using news values and the backwards law.

**Commentary:**

Level three – middle of band. Conceptual detail – some specific application to the question. Lacks enough analysis/evaluation to get top band of band or further.

**Student two**

Sociologists would argue that agenda setting happens. Newspapers may over report some crime for example knife crime in London. This may lead us to think that there is a lot more or worse crime than there actually is. The reason that bad crimes like knife crime is reported on more is because stories of bad crimes sell more than positive ones.



Marxists believe that the media is ran by just a few big corporations. They believe that the media has the ruling class interests in mind. They believe that working class crime like muggings and benefit fraud are over-reported and that white-collar crime is not reported on. This is criticized though, because white collar crime is sometimes reported for example, Bernie Madoff who committed fraud and stole over 60 billion dollars. The fact that working-class crime is reported a lot more will affect people's awareness of how much crime there is as people will think that there is a lot more working-class crime than there really is.

Interactionists also believe that the mass media can affect people's awareness of how much crime there is. They believe that the media sensationalize and exaggerate new stories. This is shown in the case study of the Mods and Rockers in the 1960s by Cohen. He found that news companies took a rather mundane store of a few hundred pounds worth of criminal damage in a seaside town and exaggerated it to make it seem much worse than it actually was. He also found that some news companies reported the same story twice to make it seem worse than it really was. This can often lead to a moral panic, where society thinks norms and values are breaking down.

To conclude, most sociologists believe that the mass media affects people's awareness of crime. They believe it does this through agenda setting, over-reporting working-class crime and under-reporting white-collar crime and by sensationalizing and exaggerating stories.

### Commentary

Level four – excellent response detailed knowledge and understanding of theories and studies. Well-written. Conceptual detail evident and a clear conclusion. Would get full marks.

### Student three

Sociologists would argue that agenda setting affects people's awareness of how much crime there is in society. Agenda setting makes us feel that there is a lot more crime than what there actually is e.g. knife crime in London makes us feel that London is a very dangerous place but in fact it's not as dangerous as you think. In the news the stories tend to be very negative which makes us think there are lots of bad stuff around. The news never tends to be on positive stuff.

People however, might tend to not worry about them because the news stories might not be around for a long time so people just let it go and not worry about the crime what is going on.

In conclusion, sociologists feel that agenda setting changes people's awareness on how much crime there is in society. On the other hand, people might not worry about this crime because it's not on the news for long enough for people to worry about it.

### Commentary

Level two – middle of band. Relevant concept of agenda setting and an example of knife crime but limited development. Conclusion is a repeat of the second paragraph. Lacks theory such as Marxism or Interactionism.

**Discuss how far sociologists agree that the level of youth crimes reflects how well parents control their children. (12 marks)**

### **Student response:**

Many sociologists would agree that the level of youth crime reflects how well parents control their children. This is due to the family being an informal agent of social control therefore norms and values should be taught. However if they are not then children will not have a sense of what is wrong and right. For example if a child grows up in a family where violence is used to resolve arguments, the child will follow this on at school. Consequently committing a crime of assault.

However Marxists would argue that working class are victims of poverty and therefore teenagers may commit crime such as theft to be able to help feed their family. Marxists would also argue that middle class children can afford to be sent to boarding schools therefore cannot commit crime.

In conclusion as the essay suggests the level of crime committed does reflect parent's social control.

### Question 10:

Discuss how far sociologists would agree that official statistics of crime do not accurately reflect the true level of middle class criminal behaviour.

[12 marks]

#### Student one:

Marxist sociologists would agree that the official statistics of crime do not reflect the true level of middle class crime. They believe that this may be for many reasons, but one important reason is that 'white collar' crimes committed by middle class people are often either ignored or treated more leniently by the criminal justice system. As a result middle class crimes are under-reported and under-recorded.

One example of this would be tax evasion scandals involving celebrities like Jimmy Carr; although Carr broke the law he was not charged for his offence and was allowed to simply pay the tax he had evaded. Marxist sociologists would argue that this can be compared to the treatment of a working class man who steals a similar amount of money but is then sent to prison for his crime.

New Right sociologists would disagree; from their point-of-view working class people, particularly if they are a member of the 'underclass' are simply more likely to commit crimes than members of the middle class. They believe that members of the underclass have grown up in a culture of dependency on benefits and have reduced life chances e.g. few if any qualifications. They are also more likely to come into contact with members of a criminal subculture and as a result to become involved in crimes like benefit fraud and drug dealing. However, other sociologists do not believe that an underclass or culture of dependency exists. They believe that members of the so called 'underclass' have the same attitudes and beliefs as other members of society and they are no more likely to commit crimes than any other member of society.

In conclusion, sociologists disagree about the accuracy of criminal statistics concerning middle class crime. Marxist sociologists are far more likely to doubt their accuracy than New Right sociologists. New Right sociologists believe that some members of the working class are simply more likely to commit crimes than members of the middle class and that official statistics accurately show this difference.

#### Commentary

L4 Mark 10/12.

This student provides a detailed and sufficiently well-developed answer to justify a L4 award. Their argument is logical and well-constructed but needs to focus more on the issue of official statistics and the nature of reported/recorded crime in order to achieve the maximum available marks. (Note that although the specification does not require students to be aware of the New Right perspective on crime students will be credited for accurate references to the New Right.)



### Student two:

Middle class 'white collar' crimes are committed by professional people like accountants or lawyers. They are often hard to detect because they usually take place inside private businesses or large institutions. For this reason many sociologists would argue that official statistics don't accurately represent the true amount of crime committed by the middle class.

Some sociologists emphasise the idea of the 'dark figure' of crime that is undetected or unreported. Even if a large company detects a crime committed by a middle class employee like a manager they may choose not to prosecute in order to protect the reputation of the company. Under these circumstances no crime is reported or recorded in the official statistics.

Some sociologists would also argue that middle class people have more 'cultural capital'; they are in a better position to negotiate with the authorities and to avoid prosecution for offences like tax evasion.

### Commentary

L3 Mark 7/12.

This student has produced a sufficiently detailed and logical argument to justify a L3 award (the principle of 'best fit' has been applied). However, they demonstrate only a limited awareness of relevant theoretical perspectives (none of which are mentioned by name, eg Marxism) and they do not reach clear conclusions with regard to the issue of extent.

### Student three:

Many sociologists, but particularly Marxists, believe that official statistics of crime do not reflect accurately the true level of middle class crime. They believe that many middle class 'white collar' crimes are part of the 'dark figure' of unreported and unrecorded crime.

Marxists believe that companies that commit corporate crimes are protected by a criminal justice system that favours the interests of large businesses and the middle class. Senior managers who commit offences like tax evasion or ignore safety rules are much more likely to have access to high quality lawyers and to escape prosecution than low level working class employees. Whereas working class crimes like theft or gang violence are much more likely to be successfully prosecuted and the working class criminal is much more likely to be given a prison sentence.

However, other sociologists would argue that Marxists place too much emphasis on inequality between the social classes. They believe that official statistics on crime are reasonably accurate and do not present a distorted picture of the level of crime in society.










### Commentary

L3 Mark 9/12.

This student has produced a sufficiently detailed and logical argument to justify an award at the top of L3. They have a clear understanding of the Marxist perspective and they provide evidence of evaluation (an improvement on the standard achieved by student 2). However, they fail to reach any clear evidence based conclusions with regard to the issue of extent (the reference to 'other sociologists' lacks appropriate development).

## ACTIVITY

Using the images below, list some practical and ethical considerations

Practical considerations		Ethical considerations	
			
			
			
			
			

**Question 1-** 1 Define what is meant by informed consent.

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**Question 2-** Identify and explain one ethical limitation faced when conducting covert participant observations

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**Question 3-** Describe one practical issue sociologists might face when using postal questionnaires.

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**Question 4-** Define what is meant by confidentiality.

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**Question 5-** Identify and explain one way sociologists can protect a participant's identity when conducting research.

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**Question 6-** Identify and explain one way unstructured interviews can be costly for sociologists to use.

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**Question 7-** Describe one practical advantage of using questionnaires with the researcher present.

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**Question 8-** Identify and explain one way that sociologists can ensure that their research is ethical.

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**Question 9-** Describe one way that sociologists can ensure that participants are not harmed.

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**Question 10-** Identify one research method that could be harmful to participants and explain why.

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**Question 11-** Describe one practical consideration that researchers must consider before conducting research.

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**Question 12 -** Describe one ethical issue sociologists may face when conducting research with children.

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**Question 13-** Describe one practical issue sociologists might face when using participant observations.

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**Question 14-** Describe one way that sociologists can receive funding for their research.

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## ACTIVITY

In the grid below, list research methods that provide the following types of data

Primary Quantitative	Secondary Quantitative
Primary Qualitative	Secondary Qualitative

**Question 1-** Define what is meant by secondary data.

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**Question 2-** Identify and describe one example of how governments collect official statistics

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**Question 3-** Describe one way that secondary sources can be used to collect information on attitudes to domestic labour fifty years ago.

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**Question 4-** Identify and explain one limitation of using official statistics to research criminal behaviour..

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**Question 5-** Identify and describe one method used to collect quantitative data

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**Question 6-** Define what is meant by quantitative data.

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**Question 7-** Describe one way sociologists can research personal opinions on historical events..

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**Question 8-** Identify and explain one limitation of using primary data in sociological research.

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**Question 9-** Describe one way official statistics can be used to measure poverty in the UK

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**Question 10-** Identify and explain one reason why a sociologist might choose to use qualitative data in their research

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**Question 11-** Define what is meant by values in sociological research.

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**Question 12 -** Identify and explain one limitation of using personal documents in sociological research.

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**Question 13-** Identify and describe one example of secondary sources that are used to investigate parental choice of schools.

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**Question 14-** Describe one-way sociologists could collect primary data on people's experience of crime.

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## ACTIVITY

List at least one strength and one limitation of each of the following quantitative methods

Method	Structured Interview	Closed Questionnaire	Structured Non-participant Observation
Strength			
Limitation			

**Question 1-** Define what is meant by the Hawthorne effect.

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**Question 2-** Identify and describe one limitation of using participant observations

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**Question 3-** Describe one reasons sociologists might select unstructured interviews for hard to reach groups.

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**Question 4-** Define what is meant by the term closed question

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**Question 5-** Define what is meant by the term closed question

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**Question 6-** Describe one limitation of using postal questionnaires.

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**Question 7-** Define what is meant by the term operationalise.

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**Question 8-** Identify and explain one way sociologists might collect quantitative data..

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**Question 9-** Identify and explain one strength of using non-participant observations.

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**Question 10-** Define what is meant by triangulation

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**Question 11-** Describe one strength of using a mixed methods approach to study social issues.

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**Question 12 -** Identify one research method that might be used by functionalists and explain why they may use it.

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**Question 13-** Identify and explain one way unstructured interviews can help with investigating socially sensitive issues.

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**Question 14-** Describe one limitation of using covert participant observations.

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## CRIME STATISTICS

Crime	Number of Incidents	Percentage Change
Violence	1,285,000	No change
Homicide	617	-6%
Knife crimes	44,817	+7%
Theft	3,578,000	No change
Burglary	380,567	-4%
Vehicle Offences	441,351	+4%
Fraud	3,797,000	+9%
Robbery	82,542	+12%
Computer Misuse	1,006,000	No change

Source: ONS 2020

**Question 1-** Define what is meant by a self-report study

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**Question 2-** Identify and explain one limitation of using official crime statistics

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**Question 3-** Describe one reason why crimes may be reported but not recorded.

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**Question 4-** Identify and explain one reason why crimes against minority ethnic groups might not be reported.

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**Question 5-** Define what is meant by a victim survey

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**Question 6-** Identify and explain one criticism Marxists might make of crime statistics.

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**Question 7-** Identify and explain one limitation of using self-report studies to measure crime.

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**Question 8-** Identify and explain, using an example, one reason why men may not report being a victim of crime.

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**Question 9-** Describe one way in which sociologists might investigate the 'dark figure of crime'.

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**Question 10-** Applying material from Item A, identify and explain one reason for increase in fraud.

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**Question 11-** Identify and explain one reason why functionalists might use official statistics to measure crime.

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**Question 12 -** Describe one reason for the trends shown in the table.

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**Question 13-** Identify and explain, using an example, one reason crimes may be under-reported

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**Question 14-** Describe one-way sociologists could get a more accurate figure of crimes committed

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## CLASSIC TEXTS

### Albert Cohen "Delinquent Boys" 1955

*As a functionalist, Cohen thinks that everyone learns the same values and goals through socialisation, part of creating a value consensus. In that way, working-class boys have the same life goals as middle-class boys. However, Cohen notes that working-class boys are much less likely to achieve at school than middle-class children. For Cohen this is down to cultural deprivation - working-class attitudes to school and education. Because pupils don't get the status they crave, they instead form delinquent subcultures. For Cohen, it was not that the members had not been socialised into mainstream values - they had - but to gain status they turned them on their head. So things that would be viewed as bad in mainstream society - like vandalism and truancy - are viewed as good within the subculture.*

*Cohen's theory is often referred to as **status frustration** and is used to explain why young working-class males are more likely to commit crimes than other people, why they do it in groups, and why it includes crimes that do not materially benefit them (i.e. why they might commit vandalism or fight). It was inspired by Merton's strain theory but developed it further to explain crime by groups.*

**Question 1-** Define what is meant by corporate crime.

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**Question 2-** Identify and describe one way in which the working-class is over-represented in crime statistics.

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**Question 3-** Describe one reason working-class people are more likely to commit crime.

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**Question 4-** Define what is meant by relative deprivation.

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**Question 5-** Identify and describe one-way young people are stereotyped in the media.

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**Question 6-** Describe one way in which the media distorts the level of crime.

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**Question 7-** Identify and explain, using an example, one reason why people commit white-collar crime

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**Question 8-** Identify and explain one reason why older people are less likely to commit crime.

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**Question 9-** Identify and explain one interactionist explanation for youth crime.



**Question 10-** Identify and explain one interactionist explanation for youth crime.

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**Question 11-** Define what is meant by the term 'dark figure of crime'

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**Question 12 -** Describe one criticism of functionalist views of working-class criminality.

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**Question 13-** Identify and explain one reason for the increased amount of crime by young people.

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**Question 14-** Describe the process that leads to young people joining subcultures according to Cohen.

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## CLASSIC TEXTS

### Pat Carlen "Women, Crime & Poverty" 1988

*This feminist study, based on interviews with 39 women, looks at why some women commit crimes. Most sociologists who have considered the issue of gender and crime have focused on why women commit far fewer crimes than men - after all, that is what the crime statistics show us. However, some women do commit crimes, and Carlen looked into that question. She concluded that working-class women made a class deal and a gender deal that generally kept them under control. The **class deal** was that they would work hard in exchange for pay which they could then use to pay for consumer goods. The **gender deal** was that they should do domestic labour and give love and companionship to their husbands, in exchange for love and financial support. Both these deals keep working-class women respectable. It was, Carlen suggested, when these deals broke down that working-class women were then more likely to commit crimes, as a rational choice. For Carlen both these "deals" were really exploitative. As a feminist she believed that women were exploited in families, and she also believed that the working class was exploited by employers in the capitalist system (agreeing with Marxists). However, there was an illusion of fairness and respectability about these deals that, most of the time, kept women under control.*

**Question 1-** Define what is meant by the term 'institutional racism'.

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**Question 2-** Identify and describe, using an example, one way in which minority ethnic groups are represented by the media.

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**Question 3-** Describe one functionalist explanation for ethnic differences in offending.

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**Question 4-** Define what is meant by the term 'scapegoat'..

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**Question 5-** Describe one way in which women's criminality is controlled by men

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**Question 6-** Identify and explain one Marxist explanation for differences in minority ethnic offending.

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**Question 7-** Describe one reason for changes in female offending over the past 50 years.

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**Question 8-** Identify and explain one reason for under-representation of females in crime statistics.

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**Question 9-** Describe how moral panics can lead to increased criminality.

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**Question 10-** Define what is meant by 'folk devils'.

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**Question 11-** Describe one reason that women are less likely to offend according to Carlen.

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**Question 12 -** Identify the research method used by Carlen and explain one disadvantage of using that method.

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**Question 13-** Define what is meant by 'gender deal'.

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**Question 14-** Describe one reason for the overrepresentation of minority ethnic groups in crime statistics.

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