

UNIT 2: CRIMINOLOGICAL THEORIES

External assessment: 90 minutes

L01: Understand social constructions of criminality

AC1.1 Compare criminal behaviour and deviance

Criminal behaviour

- social definition
- legal definition
- formal sanctions against criminals
- variety of criminal acts

Deviance

- norms, moral codes and values
- informal and formal sanctions against deviance
- forms of deviance

You are required to show an understanding of:

- how criminality and deviance are defined
- acts that are criminal
- acts that are deviant
- acts that are both criminal and deviant
- the implications of committing a criminal and/or deviant act.

AC1.2 Explain the social construction of criminality

Social construction

- how laws change from culture to culture
- how laws change over time
- how laws are applied differently according to circumstances in which actions occur
- why laws are different according to place, time and culture

L02: Know theories of criminality

AC2.1 Describe biological theories of criminality

Biological theories

- genetic theories
- physiological theories

You are required to show knowledge of a range of genetic theories, such as:

- Jacobs XYY study
- twin and adoption studies

You should have knowledge of a range of physiological theories, e.g.

- Lombroso
- Sheldon

AC2.2 Describe individualistic theories of criminality

Individualistic theories

- learning theories
- psychodynamic
- psychological theories

You are required to show knowledge of a range of theories, e.g.

- Bandura
- Eysenck
- Freud

AC2.3 Describe sociological theories of criminality

Sociological theories

- social structure
- interactionism
- realism

Learners should be able to summarise the key points of a range of theories, e.g.

- Marxism
- Labelling
- Functionalism
- Left and right realism

L03: Understand causes of criminality

AC3.1 Analyse situations of criminality

Situations relating to:

- different types of crime
- individual criminal behaviour

You are required to show a knowledge of a range of crimes, for example, crimes against the person/property, white collar, corporate crime, etc. Learners should be able to analyse a range of crimes and criminal behaviour and understand possible causes through the application of the theories learned for L02.

AC3.2 Evaluate the effectiveness of criminological theories to explain causes of criminality

Criminological theories

- individualistic
- biological
- sociological

You are required to evaluate the strengths and limitations of criminological theories in terms of explaining crime.

L04: Understand causes of policy change

AC4.1 Assess the use of criminological theories in informing policy development

Criminological theories

- biological
- sociological

Policy development

- informal policy making
- formal policy making
 - crime control policies
 - state punishment policies

Learners should be able to apply their knowledge of each of the theories and assess their use in informing policy on crime. This could include, for example, penal populism, zero tolerance, CCTV, restorative justice, and a multi-agency approach.

AC4.2 Explain how social changes affect policy development

Social changes

- social values, norms and mores
- public perception of crime
- structure of society
 - demographic changes
- cultural changes

Learners should have an understanding of social changes and how they have affected policy development.

AC4.3 Discuss how campaigns affect policy making

Campaigns

- newspaper campaigns
- individual campaigns
- pressure group campaigns